

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

The Human Village How the body's chemical factory and cleansing plants work...

Portfolio The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday...

Maxwell to wield jobs axe Mr Robert Maxwell warned journalists and print workers...

TV changes The television industry expects the Government to pass the Broadcasting Bill...

SAS man freed A former SAS soldier held last week under the Prevention of Terrorism Act...

Liars charges Two of the Polish secret policemen accused of killing Father Jerzy Popieluszko...

Engineering deal Union leaders representing the engineering industry have accepted a 5.2 per cent pay offer...

Cruise pressure President Reagan strongly urged Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister...

Delors vision M Jacques Delors, President of the new European Commission, spelled out his plans and dreams for the next four years...

Fowler's 149 An unbeaten 149 by Fowler, who shared in an opening stand of 178 with Robinson...

Leader page, 13 Letters on housing stock from Mr M. Manser, Ireland, from Brigadier W. M. T. Magan...

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Higher base rates and sliding pound may halt tax cuts

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, told the Commons that tax cuts expected in the Budget are at risk because of the crisis in sterling...

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday told the Commons that the tax cuts expected in his next Budget were now at risk...

The Chancellor's statement came on a day which saw the pound fall two cents against the dollar despite an earlier increase in bank base rates from 10.5 to 12 per cent.

A record £4.5 billion was wiped off share values on the Stock Exchange and mortgages are certain to rise at the end of the week.

With no sign of the foreign exchange markets steady after the weekend the Bank of England set a minimum lending rate for the discount market for the first time since 1981.

The figure of 12 per cent was chosen, on the advice of the Governor of the Bank, by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Lawson after brief consultations in Downing Street early in the day.

A rise in mortgage rates of up to 2 per cent from the present basic rate of about 12 per cent is expected.

The Building Societies Association has called a meeting of members for Friday to discuss the rise in bank base rates...

Most societies said that the highest base rate rise would force them to increase their own rates by at least 1 to 1.5 per cent.

The building society interest rates trend is generally set by the amount the larger societies charge. The Halifax, Britain's largest society, said it would have to raise its rates but would not decide the amount for a day or two.

The disruption of the third round of the FA Cup continued yesterday as the freezing weather hardened its grip.

Both today's Milk Cup quarter-final matches have been postponed.

The start of the international Rugby Union season is also threatened. Parc des Princes in Paris, where France are due to play Wales on Saturday, has been snowbound...

Decision about the match will be made tomorrow. Race meetings at Sedgfield and Worcester today have been abandoned...

Britain will continue to freeze for at least another five days, the London Weather Centre said yesterday.

East and north-east winds will continue to bring occasional snow showers, mainly in the south and South-east, freezing fog will persist in many places...

Both are "highly qualified" professional people, with homes in town and country, who "dearly wanted a baby".

Mr Kirby-Johnson said yesterday that he and his wife, who is six months' pregnant,



Aged 40 today: Princess Michael of Kent with Prince Michael at their home in Gloucestershire, Nether Lypiatt Manor. Interview, page 3.

392 killed as train plunges into ravine

Addis Ababa (Reuter) - Three hundred and ninety-two passengers were killed when a crowded train plunged into a ravine in eastern Ethiopia on Sunday night...

In its latest update of the death toll, it also revised the figure for those injured to 370, down from the 521 in an earlier report.

ENA said the train, on the Addis-Djibouti line, was derailed near Awash, 150 miles east of the capital.

There was also uncertainty as to the cause of the crash at the weekend. Several Dhaka newspapers put the toll at more than 150, with one daily reporting as many as 300 dead.

Israeli Cabinet agrees to pull out of Lebanon Jerusalem - Israel will withdraw from occupied Lebanon in three stages beginning next month...

Talks to avert Thursday's threatened rail strike are to be held tonight after union leaders and British Rail agreed to investigate complaints of harassment of workers...

Some militant local union officials in London have called for disruption of commuter services in the South-east...

Mr Alan Gorsl, director of Barnet social services, said after the judgement: "We are now quite satisfied that the baby will be extremely well looked after."

Mr Tony Hall, director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, welcomed the judgement, but said that it would be worrying if it ignited debate on future surrogacy cases.

Ministers will decide "in the next week or two" whether to legislate quickly to outlaw commercial agencies.

Law Report, page 8

1,330 miners go back to work board claims

Another 1,330 miners abandoned their strike, so that 73,000 pit men are now working. Mr Arthur Scargill has been accused in a High Court action of conspiring to intimidate working miners.

The National Coal Board reported yesterday a fresh surge of miners abandoning the strike and in Nottinghamshire, working pitmen's leaders intensified their moves to break with the National Union of Mineworkers.

By the time the afternoon shift had clocked on, another 1,330 "new faces" had returned to their jobs, bringing the number of men not on strike to about 73,000, or 38 per cent of the NUM labour force.

Mr Michael Eaton, chief spokesman for the board, said: "The return is encouraging. It reflects the disenchantment that the miners feel with the leadership of the dispute."

Privately, the board hopes that the drift back will intensify the pressure on the NUM executive to shift its bargaining position and to allow fresh talks to take place on a formula for a return-to-work.

Now that the miners have agreed to bring their entire executive of 26 men to any new negotiations, the board is looking to the executive's meeting on January 24 to start a move away from the concept of "no pit closures on economic grounds".

The board is taking legal advice about what to do with the breakaway pit union emerging in Nottinghamshire as a result of the NUM executive's vote last week to expel the 30,000-member coalfield union unless it rescinds recent rule changes and bows to the authority of the pro-strike national leadership.

The actions of the moderates in Nottinghamshire are being closely watched in other areas where most of the men are back at work. Area leaders in South Derbyshire and Leicestershire representing about 5,000 working pitmen are considering whether to make a similar stand against the executive.

Last night, the South Derbyshire leaders decided to back the Nottinghamshire area executive. Continued on back page, col 8

Scargill faces new legal action to Southport

Mr Arthur Scargill, the president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and 28 other miners' leaders have been accused of conspiracy to assault and intimidate working miners in another High Court action.

The proceedings started yesterday by 19 working Yorkshire miners also seeks court orders to ban the union from organizing mass pickets and from spending money on such picketing which, the working miners say, is neither lawful nor peaceful.

The action, which comes to court for a preliminary hearing on Thursday, will be the first legal challenge to mass picketing at a national level.

The Yorkshire action has been led by Mr Walter Sharp, of Armthorpe, near Doncaster, who works at Rosington colliery. The men claim both general damages and special damages for loss of wages as a result of the alleged intimidation. They have been granted legal aid to bring the action.

Those also named include Mr Michael McGahey, the union vice president and Mr Peter Heathfield, the general secretary. Other pit news, page 2

Man on bail 'banished' to Southport

A solicitor representing a National Union of Mineworkers official accused of assaulting a working miner, yesterday described the conditions of bail as the most onerous and stringent he had ever experienced.

Magistrates at Pontefract, West Yorkshire, have imposed travel and residence conditions on Mr Wright, the president of the union branch at Fryston colliery, which effectively bar him from the colliery.

He has to live in Southport, Lancashire, 110 miles from his home and is not allowed to leave the boundaries of the town except to travel to court. He is barred from union activities.

Mr Wright, accused of causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Michael Fletcher who was beaten in his home last November, must report to Southport police every week and then check in with Pontefract police whenever he travels to the town to make a court appearance. He was yesterday remanded on continuing bail, with the same conditions, until February 8.

Mortgage rise of up to 2% likely

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Big freeze stops all football

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Judge gives surrogacy baby to her natural father

The first baby born to a commercial surrogate mother in Britain has been handed over by the High Court to her natural father and his wife, a judge announced yesterday.

Mr Justice Lacey, who repeated his ban on any publicity leading to identification of the couple or baby, said that he had committed care and control of the baby to them until further order. All three have left the country.

Although the judgement was announced yesterday the judge made the order after a private hearing in the High Court last Friday. Documents were issued to Mr Derek Kirby-Johnson, the natural father's London solicitor, who executed a well-prepared plan to take the baby from Victoria Maternity Hospital, Barnet, north London, without being spotted by the press.



Mr Kirby-Johnson, the father's solicitor.

The mother has a congenital defect which prevents her from having children. The judge said that "in their home country adoption is slow, and a child is usually aged four to five at adoption".

He added that inquiries last week by Barnet Borough Council social services department had confirmed the fatherhood, and that the natural

Israeli Cabinet agrees to pull out of Lebanon

Jerusalem - Israel will withdraw from occupied Lebanon in three stages beginning next month, it was decided last night after a marathon session of the National Union Cabinet headed by Mr Shimon Peres (Christopher Walker writes).

The operation will take nine months. Right-wing and left-wing ministers argued bitterly over the plan, which was agreed by 16 votes to 6, with those opposing including Mr Yitzhak Shamir, who will take over as Prime Minister in two years.

Hours before the vote two Israeli troops were killed and seven others wounded in two separate ambushes inside southern Lebanon. French killed in Beirut, page 7

Urgent talks likely to avert rail strike

Talks to avert Thursday's threatened rail strike are to be held tonight after union leaders and British Rail agreed to investigate complaints of harassment of workers who refuse to move coal in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire (David Felton writes).

It appears likely that the strike which threatens inter-city services between London and Sheffield and London and Edinburgh will be averted.

Some militant local union officials in London have called for disruption of commuter services in the South-east, but national union officials were not certain whether such unofficial action would materialize if the official strike went ahead.

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Work practices warning given with engineering workers' rise

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Union leaders accepted last night a 5.2 per cent pay rise covering the minimum pay of more than two million workers in the engineering industry, but were warned by the employers that any cuts in working hours will have to be financed by big changes in working practices.

The settlement between 17 unions and the Engineering Employers' Federation, representing more than 600 companies, has traditionally been regarded as the pace-setter for private sector settlements, but the deal has already been outstripped by agreements in car companies.

Employers and unions agreed to set up a negotiating body to pave the way for the introduction of a shorter working week, but the employers have said that in order to meet the unions' stated priority of reducing working time they will have to agree to a five-point productivity programme.

The unions were also told yesterday that a reduction in the present 39-hour working week will not be possible before April 1987 at the earliest and that its introduction could then be phased over two years.

The offer gives a 5.14 per cent increase on national minimum rates to skilled workers and 5.18 per cent for unskilled. The increases count mainly for overtime and bonus payments, but they tend to be

Final day for appeals against ratecapping

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

Today is the final day for appeals by rate-capped councils. Unless there is last-minute pleading, the Government has promised within a fortnight to fix a legal maximum rate for the 18 councils singled out for special control.

One Parliament has fixed that maximum there is no way the councils, which include the Greater London Council, the Inner London Education Authority, Sheffield, Leicester and the left-wing Labour London boroughs of Hackney and Lambeth, can avoid significant reductions in expenditure.

According to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment: "The January 15 date is real. The parliamentary and administrative timetable requires me to act very swiftly."

But by last night none of the councils, all Labour-controlled, except for Conservative Portsmouth district and Brent, in north-west London, where an uneasy Liberal-Conservative coalition occupies a predominant position, had appealed to Mr Jenkin.

Hard-line Labour councillors led by Mr Ted Knight, the leader of Lambeth, have argued that the rate-capped councils should in no circumstances talk to ministers. The four south London councils of Lambeth, Greenwich and Southwark back this line.

But others advocate negotiations with the Department of the Environment, among them the leaders of Islington, Sheffield, and Haringey.

The matter has been made worse recently by the threat of coups against the leaders of, for example, Camden because they are not adopting a hard enough position. Several councils have launched legal actions against the Government.

The Greater London Council last week published the opinion of a leading counsel which said Mr Jenkin had taken steps contrary to law; the GLC says the Government is moving too quickly to allow it time to consult.

Mr Jenkin has not closed the door on further talks with the threatened councils although he has ruled out any changes in the rate limits which, for example, require Leicester to make a 57 per cent cut in its rates.

The Government announced last night that it is trimming its cash aid to councils in inner-city stress areas. Councils such as Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Hackney are to get the same amount in cash for 1985-86 as for 1984-85.

Rates will increase in Wales by no more than 3 per cent, and in such places as Swansea and Neath they will fall, according to government figures.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said there would be no sharp rate increases provided local authorities budgeted "responsibly".



Government 'gambling', Heath says

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Edward Heath gave a warning last night that the Government was gambling with the country's social stability by refusing to take decisive action against unemployment.

He said in a speech to Sunderland Conservatives: "Here in the north-east of England you are asking, like people in many other parts of our country, how much longer will we, as a nation, be prepared to sit back and allow the scourge of unemployment to rage unchecked?"

"How much more of our manufacturing base must we see destroyed? How much longer can we afford to gamble with our social stability?"

Mr Heath said that it was not good enough to wait for the invisible hand of market forces to provide some benefit. Pursuit of market forces had been a tragic mistake, dealing a near-fatal blow to regional policy, and the hands-off policy on investment was the road to ruin.

"Unfettered market forces lead to the rich and the strong growing richer and stronger and the poor and the weak, poorer and weaker, until some configuration in society acted to restore the balance," he said.

"In Britain we have largely avoided this because as one nation we have always regulated our affairs to ensure that we have all benefited from the economic progress arising from the dynamics of capitalism."

Nevertheless, the North was now becoming larger as high-level unemployment crept further south. "In economic terms," he said, "the North does now begin at Watford."

No matter how bleak the national picture, with the long-term unemployed now 40 per cent of those out of work, unemployment in the regions was far worse, with 19 per cent unemployment in the North.

Mr Heath said: "Of 131 planning regions in Europe, the North is in the bottom 12. This puts it alongside Sardinia, Sicily and Calabria as one of the 'poor men' of Europe."

Miner's strike rebels, Notts rich enough to go it alone

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The breakaway movement among working miners in the Nottinghamshire coalfield is likely to result in a new trade union that would challenge all the postwar protocol of finance, recognition and political activity in the labour movement.

According to its latest financial statement to the Government-appointed certification officer, the Nottinghamshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers had 30,339 members who paid £1,577,371 in annual subscriptions. The area, a union in its own right so far as the law is concerned, also had an investment income of £111,431 during 1983.

Some pits have closed since then, and some miners have left the industry, but if it attracted 25,000 members the nascent Nottinghamshire Miners' Association (its old title before the 1944 merger of the coalfield unions) could be viable, with a healthy income and substantial property on its books. Its fixed assets, including the headquarters at Berry Hill, Mansfield, are listed at a value of £680,604, and its total funds (including "sundry creditors") at £2,745,664.

Not a few much larger unions would like to see such a balance sheet. But there is no prospect of a breakaway union affiliating to the TUC or the Labour Party. It would be regarded as a leper.

The new union's relationship with the National Coal Board are much less clear, and are giving rise to much concern among managers.

The split between the Nottinghamshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers and the NUM leadership comes after a series of legal actions throughout the course of the dispute.

On May 25 Nottinghamshire miners won right-to-work orders from the High Court confirming they could not be ordered by the union to strike or not cross picket lines.

The 600-plus miners won the orders against their local leadership, the NUM executive and Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM.

The NUM executive and Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, are threatening disciplinary measures.

On July 10 a group of 17 working miners obtained a High Court order that the Sheffield-based NUM conference should not discuss proposed disciplinary rule changes. The ground was the Nottinghamshire miners had been prevented from instructing their representatives to vote against the changes.

The NUM Rule Book lays down that "the decisions of the national executive committee upon all matters shall be binding."

It is that authority that the Nottinghamshire miners, through votes at branch meetings, have determined to defy by deleting Rule 30 of the national rule book from their own area rules.

Events are moving at such a speed that the national union has been unable to determine just how to handle the revolt in Mansfield, but they are certain to take legal action if the breakaway body calls itself the "National Union of Mineworkers (Nottinghamshire)".

Man jailed for girls' abduction

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

Leslie Clarke, aged 41, an unemployed grade manager, was jailed for 18 months yesterday for abducting two girls aged 12 to the Republic of Ireland on a "rough and ready" adventure.

At the Central Criminal Court, Sir James Miskin, Recorder told Clarke of Rotherham, Yorkshire, that he had shown a "rough and ready" character and thoughtlessness.

Kevin Maher, aged 25, who is educationally retarded and unemployed, of Clonmel, Tipperary, in the Republic, was acquitted of abduction. The women and Maher, who had children but had not wanted the girls to go to the Republic and took no part in the abduction.

The two men had also been accused of child stealing, but the judge had already told the jury he had decided there was no proof on that charge and he would direct them to return a guilty verdict.

Two escapers from police cells recaptured

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

Scotland Yard said yesterday that two men who had escaped from the Maze prison for the second time, Christopher Higgins, aged 35, and Marek Raczynski, aged 24, escaped from Harrow police station while charged with armed robbery and other offences.

The two were arrested at a house at Langley, Berkshire, by officers from Thames Valley police, the Yard's Flying and Central Robbery Squads, and a regional crime squad. The men were also held. All five were taken to Paddington Green police station, London, where they are being questioned.

Gas blast blows man across street

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

Mr Tony Bowers, aged 28, a demolition worker from Fox-teth, Liverpool, was blown across a street yesterday by a gas explosion in a shop near his home. He is being treated in hospital for facial burns.

Gas board investigators said that they were satisfied with the safety of appliances they have checked at the block of flats in Putney, south London where eight people died in a gas explosion last week.

Press body plea on VAT

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

British newspapers should not receive less favourable treatment than their foreign counterparts, the Newspaper Society, which represents regional and local press publishers, has told the Government.

In a paper on subsidies and tax concessions, the society says that the Royal Commission on the Press in 1977 saw the VAT zero-rating of cover prices and the advertising revenue as the most acceptable form of help for the industry.

Off camera

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

Police investigating the theft of security worth up to £1 million from a Harrods shop last week were told yesterday that the store's video security equipment had not recorded the incident.

Talks with airlines fail, Laker says

By Patricia Clough

Sir Freddie Laker announced yesterday that efforts to reach a settlement in his conspiracy case against British Airways and 11 other airlines had failed, and said: "I want my airline back."

He made the announcement after a weekend of talks in Key Biscayne, Florida, with lawyers representing the airlines which he accuses of conspiring to force his Laker Airways.

The airlines have offered £20 million, including between £5 million and £4 million for Sir Freddie personally, in an attempt to settle the dispute which is holding up the privatization of British Airways.

"We've had a constructive discussion but there is no agreement," Sir Freddie said. He did not disclose the reason for the breakdown but indicated that he was holding out in the hopes of much larger settlement which would enable him to relaunch his airline.

"My position is the same now that it has always been. Laker Airways was driven out of business by a criminal conspiracy and I want my airline back."

In London British Airways had "no comment whatsoever" on the failure of the talks.

Mr Christopher Morris, the liquidator of Laker Airways, is suing the airlines for £890 million damages. The defendants include Pan-Am, TWA, Lufthansa, British Caledonian and Swissair.

TUC urged to spare 'dissidents'

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders, embarrassed at their failure to hold the line on defiance of the Government's labour legislation will be invited tomorrow to delay any serious decisions on the controversial issue that threatens to split the TUC down the middle.

The TUC's employment policy and organization committee will have before it a confidential policy paper arguing that no important steps should be taken for at least a month because many affiliated unions - including the biggest, the transport workers' TGWU - have failed to reply to a circular asking about their experience of the new legislation.

Pressure from moderates not to suspend the engineering union AUEW and the electricians' union EETPU intensified yesterday when the power station engineers argued that there was "no case" for disciplining the two unions for deciding to accept Government money for secret ballots in defiance of TUC policy.

Mr John Lyons, General Secretary of the Engineers and Management Association, argued: "If total adherence to all TUC resolutions and principles is to be the yardstick of affiliation then, if these two unions are to be suspended there is no union which would be safe from suspension."

Students agree not to picket NF activist

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The 16 students taken to the High Court by Mr Patrick Harrington, the National Front activist, undertook yesterday to assist in his lectures, the main library in Kentish Town, the catering, and toilet facilities in Holloway Road and Kentish Town, and the place of his examinations.

Dr John Beishon, the polytechnic's acting director, said after the hearing that he was extremely relieved that no student had been committed to jail. He said that should have been a great calming effect "but we have still got to get through until the summer".

Alliance's TV time unfair, Owen tells High Court

By David Walker, Social Services Correspondent

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, criticized yesterday as unjust and unfair, the television time given to his party and its Liberal partners in the Alliance.

He is asking the High Court to order the Broadcasting Commission to consider his complaint about the parties' lack of exposure on the BBC and ITV.

He said that the change in voting patterns is not being matched by television coverage, with Labour receiving five times more coverage than the Alliance.

Mr Leonard Hoffmann, QC, for the commission, said Dr Owen's complaint was about editorial policy. Rather than bring the commissioners to court, he should seek redress to the broadcasting authorities.

The hearing continues today.



Dr Owen yesterday: Fighting for time.

Working miner tells of attack

From Peter Davenport, Doncaster

The Commons yesterday for working miners to come forward with evidence of intimidation.

His comments came in reply to Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, who asked what steps had been taken to collect evidence that there was a conspiracy being organized by the NUM leadership which "would enable the conviction of the ringleaders".

Sir Michael told MPs that there was a scarcity of the evidence of intimidation that would be necessary before the Director of Public Prosecutions could initiate proceedings for conspiracy.

The Home Office said yesterday that 1,305 police officers have been injured so far in the mining dispute.

The cost of policing the dispute in Nottinghamshire has exceeded £50 million.

The battle for £2,700,000 held frozen in a Dublin bank by the striking miners will resume in the Irish Republic's High Court on January 31.

Extremists murdered diplomat, court told

From Craig Seton, Birmingham

An Indian diplomat abducted in a Birmingham street, held captive for two days and then killed by Kashmiri extremists was the victim of international terrorism caused by political troubles thousands of miles away, it was alleged at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Six men have denied charges relating to the kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment and murder in February last year of Mr Davindra Mhatre, aged 48, the assistant commissioner at the Indian High Commission in Birmingham, who was found shot dead in a country lane in Leicestershire two days after he was dragged into a car close to this home in Bartley Green, Birmingham.

Abdul Raja, aged 28, described as a representative of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, from Paris, and Mohammed Riaz, aged 23, a student, from Leicester, are charged with kidnapping, falsely imprisoning and murdering Mr Mhatre.

Mohammad Bhatti Siddique, aged 34, of the Kashmir Liberation Front offices in Birmingham, Janqhir Mirzani, aged 24, of Birmingham, and Abdul Ansari, aged 27, also of Birmingham, are charged with concealing and disposing of evidence relating to murder and kidnapping.

Mohammed Ishaq, aged 27, a taxi driver, of Luton, Bedfordshire, faces two charges concerning a false passport.

Mr Igor Judge, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Mhatre, a married man with a daughter, was walking home when he was attacked, injured and bundled into a car.

He was imprisoned at an address in the same Birmingham road as the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front offices and two days later was taken from captivity to his death.

Mr Judge said: "Although there was no formality about it and no trial, this was an execution."

The trial continues today.

Competitive US topples Japan

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Japan has been toppled from its position as the world's most competitive nation by the United States, according to a new international survey of industry. The United Kingdom languishes in 14th place and shows little sign of improvement.

The survey, by the non-profit-making European Management Forum, produces an international competitiveness scoreboard based on 302 criteria grouped under 10 principal factors. To score the maximum of 100 per cent a country would have to come first in all 10.

The United States, which came third last year, has shot into first place with a score of 70.97 per cent. It won high points for much reduced government regulatory interference and a strong surge in technological innovation, boosted by recent spending on research and development. The US has had a healthy, investment-led growth and has created 20 million jobs since 1973.

While the US scores first place only once, Japan claims

Monopoly used as war game

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The board game Monopoly was used by MI5 to help British prisoners of war to escape during the Second World War, it was revealed yesterday.

Three of John Waddington's most trusted employees worked at a special section of the firm's Leeds factory to produce specially doctored sets, including escape maps, currency and a compass, for the prisoners.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington's chairman, said: "The job was to make Monopoly sets into whose boards were inserted maps showing escape routes from the particular prison to which each game was to be sent. Into the other side of the board was inserted a tiny compass and several false quality files."

"The Monopoly money was replaced by the money of the country to which the set was being sent - either German, Austrian or Italian."

Penney altered report on nuclear tests

By Pat Healy

Lord Penney, the scientist in charge of Britain's nuclear test programme in the 1950s, yesterday admitted that he had insisted on changes to an independent scientific report which could have endangered the continuation of the tests.

Giving evidence in London to the Australian Royal Commission investigating the safety of the tests, Lord Penney said that the findings could have been refuted with scientific evidence.

But because of the scientific reputation of the author full publication would have caused

Law Society approves complaints scheme

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

An arbitration scheme that will deal with allegations of negligence against solicitors has been approved in principle by the council of the Law Society.

The scheme, as yet only in draft form, will enable aggrieved clients to submit complaints involving allegations of negligence. Where the complaint involves a claim of more than £200, it will go to an arbitrator appointed by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

The client will have to pay a fee of £50 and the solicitor will be bound to accept the arbitrator's findings if that is the way the client chooses to proceed.

The scheme has been agreed between the society and the Institute to improve the society's machinery for handling complaints. At present it has no power to tackle negligence claims which must be pursued by clients through the courts.

The scheme is one of the new measures undertaken by the society after the former society council member was struck off for overcharging a client by £131,000.

New credit card phones

By Our Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is to install two new types of credit card telephones, one at Heathrow Airport and the other at Waterloo railway station in London, as part of the Credit Card pilot scheme.

Thirty-two machines will be installed at Heathrow. The machines look similar to the blue push button payphones but have an additional box for credit cards.

The user is given instructions by a recorded voice. The telephone then accepts Visa, Amex or Access cards.

At Waterloo ten telephones have been installed. These are also push button but the instructions are given to the user on a display screen.

Guilty plea on ordnance thefts

By Our Technology Correspondent

A top civil servant at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Aisler, Cheshire, admitted a stealing more than 28,000 rounds of ammunition and a rocket launcher from the factory's Wesley Harris, aged 56, of Heath End Road, Aisler, also admitted conspiring to steal ammunition between 1982 and 1983.

Mr Justice McNeill ordered that charges against Harris' wife, Eva, aged 50, and son Peter, aged 21, should be on the file after they pleaded not guilty.

Princess Michael of Kent looks forward to life's 'big fences' 'I have broken pain barrier of being 40'

By Grania Forbes, of the Press Association

Princess Michael of Kent, aged 40 today, said of her age: "I've broken through the pain barrier and feel 'Hello, this is going to be all right'."

In an interview at Kensington Palace she said that at first she had "really dreaded" reaching 40. It seemed "a terrifying admission of middle age which meant the engine was wearing down, which meant over the hill, which meant the autumn of my life."

"But I didn't accept it... I realized that a woman doesn't really come into her own - we say come into her power - until a maturity sets in. I am beginning to feel grown up. I can begin to do what I think is right for me, what is right for my own and I don't terribly care any more about asking anyone's opinion."

"I want to listen to advice but suddenly one isn't a child any more. People say that when you're 21, but I think it's when you hit 40."

The Princess, born in Czechoslovakia of aristocratic Austrian parents, married Prince Michael in 1978 after her previous marriage to a merchant banker had been annulled.

Exhibiting a zest for life in public engagements she is now accepted by the Establishment, on good terms with the Royal Family, looking forward to "the big fences" of life and hoping to boost her income by becoming the author of a best-selling work of popular history.

The past decade has not been easy for the Princess. Initially she found her position difficult and isolated.

"My thirties were the era of the princess - resenting it, resisting it, liking bits of it, disliking other bits of it, being confused at times and reacting like the foreigner that I am - very often not understanding when I was misunderstood because I was being judged on an English basis. There was a lot of confusion within that identity."

With characteristic frankness, she says that she was not the ideal choice when she married the Queen's cousin, Prince Michael of Kent, six years ago.

Along except for an elderly cousin living in the country, she missed the support of her family. "I did feel rather isolated in the sense that I realised that there would be a certain amount of opposition to me."

thought I must have been - foreign, Roman Catholic and divorced."

But the young couple found a friend and mentor in Lord Mountbatten who helped them through difficult years of courtship and early married life.

"It was a terrible blow when he died, not only for the country, but personally for us because we lost our great supporter in household circles, in family circles and in society circles who could explain a great many things that thereafter were not explained," she said.

The Kent family was very supportive, the Princess says, "and everybody was very kind to me - a great deal kinder than I expected. It can't have been easy for them to have this wild six-foot tall blonde thing arrive."

She feels the Establishment has got used to her. "Lord Mountbatten said it would take five years to be accepted. It's six years now and I think I'm fairly accepted."

She disputes gossip-column suggestions that she is disliked by the Royal Family. "Actually I get on very well with my husband's family. I am on very good terms with everybody. They were as sweet as can be to me and this is a myth that has been perpetuated by certain newspapers."

The nickname "Our Val" - short for "Valerie" - which is said to be the Queen's pet name for her, is also a myth. They never call me that even among themselves. They call me M.C. - short for my Christian name Marie Christine.

The Princess has learned to cope with her position. "I think I have now come to terms with that persona. I have understood what is required of me, I am prepared to play my role within its limitations and restrictions but I must be allowed, and I know I shall be allowed, and encouraged, to develop that artistic side in me which is bursting to get out. It may not be good but it has got to be allowed to happen."

To that end and to boost the family income, the Princess hopes to finish her first book in July. It tells the stories of 12 princesses who left their own countries for marriage, and the social and general changes they met.

"I hope very much that my book will be a bestseller, that there will be a television series from the book and so on. "It may go wrong. But even if I get terrible reviews, I hope I shall be able to cry all the way to the bank."

Prince Michael is the only member of the Royal Family to receive nothing from the Civil List, money allocated by Parliament to cover the expense of undertaking public engagements. "We have never asked for the Civil List, we have never wanted the Civil List," the Princess said.

"I think I would feel desperately frustrated in what I want to do if we had to do as much as a Civil List would require."

But she concedes that not receiving a List allocation is a financial handicap. "It's not doing the public functions that costs money, it's having the staff that costs money. Just being a royal prince means you have to have the staff."

The Princess recently lectured to businessmen on Imperial Vienna. "I now know it's something I can do, and something to keep up my sleeve. So far I have refused all subsequent offers. Ideally, I would like to do two or three lectures a year on something I know about."



Prince and Princess Michael of Kent with their two children, Lord Frederick Windsor and Lady Gabriella Windsor.

something she hopes public school will cure.

Lady Gabriella is very "Kent" in appearance - "but a bit more like me. She's a cool intellectual but really full of mischief."

The same vigour which the Princess is bringing to making her forges the decade of her authorship is evident also in her willingness to be of service in public life. "I am ready to be put to work," she said.

The commission, which carried out a year-long survey of more than 6,000 women, found that four out of five thought that family planning clinics should extend their services to include pre-pregnancy health care, including advice on the spacing of children, diet, immunization, smoking, and alcohol.

It also urges that warning notices should appear on all medicines to be avoided just before or during pregnancy.

Women and the Health Service, Women's National Commission, Government Offices, Great George Street SW1P 3AQ, (Free)

NHS 'must do more to meet needs of women'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The National Health Service should be more human and considerate and do more to meet the needs of women, who are its biggest users, the Women's National Commission said yesterday.

The commission, a government advisory body with representatives from all the main political parties and the 50 main national women's organizations.

It calls for better breast and cervical cancer screening services; a special unit in each regional health authority staffed by women to deal with menstrual, gynaecological and urinary problems; more women specialists; more privacy on mixed wards; better appointments systems to allow working women easier access to services, and more help for those who care for patients at home.

In a report containing 84 recommendations, the commission emphasizes that women are the main users of the National Health Service, since they represent more than half the population and are also frequently responsible for the health of children and elderly relatives.

Yet half of all women with dependent children have a job, and the report says the NHS therefore needs to produce a service with women in mind.

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Heart patients 'dying because of doctors' ineptitude'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Many hospital patients who suffer heart attacks die during the "confused and disorganized charades" of attempts to save them because doctors do not know how to give emergency resuscitation, a survey has disclosed.

Only 8 per cent of junior doctors in a survey were able to manage a cardiopulmonary arrest adequately, and the others were "amazed at how disorganized they appeared and at how much time they wasted doing nothing" when they saw themselves later on video recordings of a test.

The standards of cardiopulmonary resuscitation as practised by junior medical staff are scandalously low, says the author of a report on the survey, published in the current issue of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*.

Some senior house officers felt affronted when asked to demonstrate their ability, but their performance in theoretical and practical tests was not significantly better than their juniors.

"In most hospitals, junior medical staff are assumed to be competent to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation and so receive no formal training on appointment", says Dr William Casey, of the department of anaesthetics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

"When training is offered relatively few newly appointed doctors attend. Their consequent lack of familiarity with resuscitation equipment at cardiac arrests is frequently embarrassing obvious."

In the survey, 50 junior doctors at Addenbrooke's completed a 20-question written test and were then shown a resuscitation mannequin. They were asked to assume it was a patient, apparently unconscious, and were asked to demonstrate their initial management of such a patient. They were observed for two minutes and, whenever possible, were on video.

The average score in the written test was 30 per cent, but none of the doctors in the practical test would have fulfilled a particular set of criteria for effective basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Only four doctors were able to ventilate the mannequin and perform cardiac massage in an effective manner.

Dr Casey suggests that video recordings can be valuable teaching aids, that all students should train with mannequins, and that such a test should be part of their final MB examinations.

Every hospital should have a consultant with responsibility for resuscitation and co-ordinating a training programme, he says.

'Crossroads' actors go

Four leading characters are being removed from *Crossroads*, the television motel soap opera, in a shake-up aimed at raising the number of viewers.

Ronald Allen and Sue Lloyd, who play the motel's proprietors David and Barbara Hunter, and Lynette McMorrough and David Moran, who play Glenda and Kevin Banks, are to go.

New characters are to replace them, one of whom will be played by a household name, Central Television said last night.

Philip Bowman, the producer, said the character of Benny Hawkins, played by Paul Henry, a regular in the cast for 10 years, would have "a very interesting future at the motel".

He said *Crossroads*, with a regular audience of about 11 million, was competing now with the new BBC series *Eastenders*, had been given an increased budget and had "a very bright future".

Cut-price EEC butter rationed

By Robin Young

Shops in many parts of Britain were obliged to ration sales of cheap EEC butter yesterday as it went on sale at prices from 33p to 42p for a 250 gramme pack.

The maximum price set on the 39,200 tonnes withdrawn from the EEC cold stores for sale in Britain is 42p - 10p below the average price. Most supermarkets are selling the butter 13p or 14p below the price of their cheapest brand.

In London there was confusion and disappointment about the offer. Branches of Woolworth and Presto had sold out last week, in advance of the release date recommended within the trade.

Safeway, Bejam, Lipton and branches of the Spar and Mace chains still have to receive supplies. Where there were supplies, there was no rush of customers. At Tesco's in Stroud Green Road, north London, customers continued to buy their favourite brands in preference to EEC butter which was 14p cheaper.

In Cardiff, Liverpool and Northern Ireland supermarkets were restricting customers to six packs. A few shops were giving priority to pensioners and the unemployed, and stores in Nottingham, Norwich and Derby reported that they were likely to be sold out by mid-week.

Branches of the Co-op have posted warnings that the butter is not suitable for freezing, which is denied by the Ministry of Agriculture. It said: "Obviously this butter has been in store quite some time, and is not the freshest it is possible to buy."

£250 fines for taking rare plants

Two dealers in aquatic plants were fined £250 each at a Norfolk magistrates court yesterday for uprooting a rare wild plant in what was thought to be the first case of its kind under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Michael Franklin of Temple Lane, Temple Balsall, Solihull, West Midlands, and David Haslam, of Nottingham Road, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire, both aged 37, denied uprooting plants of the water soldier (*Sagittaria Arifolia*) at Hivers Fen on Luchman Marshes, Norfolk, last May.

They are considering an appeal.

North Walsham magistrates were told by Mrs Marjory Arnold, of Fritton Road, Luchman, that when she realized the men were collecting the plants she noted the number of their van and told the police.

Mr Harold Dollman, now retired as chief warden of the 177-acre nature reserve at Luchman, said he had found more than 100 plants lying along the banks of the dykes. He said: "The plant is nationally rare. They grow in the water floating on the top, and have a white flower."

Bookings are apparently still about a fifth down compared with the corresponding period last year.

Rank Travel says it is better off than many in the trade, but nevertheless is down 3 per cent cumulatively on package tours.

A warning that big reductions in the price of holidays should not be expected later in the booking season came from Mr Angus Crichton-Miller, managing director of Rank Organisation's holidays and recreation division. He said: "There are fewer holidays on offer this year. People would do well to book earlier."

Surcharges on next summer's holidays because of sterling's weakness continue to look more likely and, with final invoicing being made rather more than two months ahead of holidays, the tour operators will start having to make decisions within a few weeks about the level of the surcharges.

Tour firm extends free car parking at airports

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

With the threat of surcharge on next summer's foreign package holidays growing, one of the big tour operators brought in airport free car parking offer yesterday to try to boost flagging bookings.

Rank Travel, part of Rank Organisation, which is already offering free parking at Gatwick, Glasgow, Newcastle upon Tyne and Manchester airports for off-peak summer holidays, extended the offer yesterday to peak-period holidays in July and August. The offer is mostly worth £32 to £40 depending on the airport. To benefit a holidaymaker has to book before March 18.

This effort to stimulate bookings comes as evidence grows that an increasing number of holidaymakers are delaying decisions on their main summer holiday.

Reports in the trade suggest that bookings are coming in more quickly after a 30 to 40 per cent decline during the last few months of 1984, but



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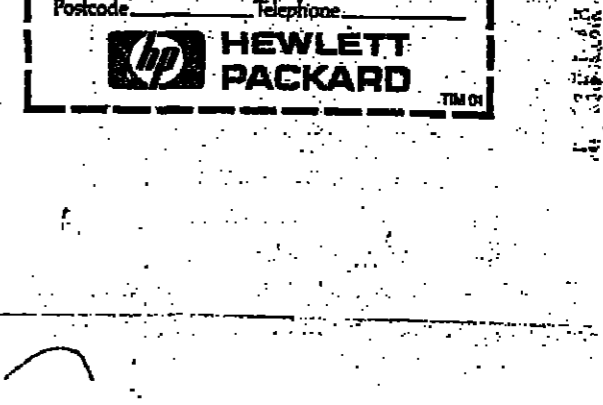
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PARLIAMENT JANUARY 14 1985

Chancellor blames the siren voices

STERLING

It would be unwise to assume that £1,500 million would be available for tax reductions in the Budget, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said when replying to questions in the Commons about interest rates and the Government's decision to reintroduce a minimum lending rate.

Lawson's statement

The objective of Government policy is to bring down and hold down rates of inflation still further. That we have succeeded in doing and he conspicuously failed to do, despite the fact that on a number of occasions he described it as the central objective of his policy.

Miners not getting advice from Tories

It was simply not true to say that miners who had brought court actions against the NUM were acting on the advice of the Conservative Party, Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, emphasised during Commons questions.

Bank shares sale

The TSB would be taken over by successor bank but, in the interim, the TSB might indeed take over another bank.

Depositors and staff to have priority in buying TSB shares

It was incumbent upon the Government to resolve the question of ownership of the Trustee Savings Banks and it was therefore enabling them to be removed from a sort of no man's land and given private sector status.

SEQUESTRATION

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) has said that the sequestration of the Party allies were doing their best to put out the story that it was the Government who were somehow instigating these legal actions.

BANKING

It was intended that after the enactment of the Trustee Savings Banks Bill, the second reading of which he was moving, the Government would have priority and the money raised would go to develop for the future.

Military efficiency

Sir David had taken on the many and varied duties of Black Rod after a distinguished career in the army culminating in his appointment as General Officer Commanding in Northern Ireland from 1975 to 1977.

Powers intended to protect house-buyers

The more important part of the administration of Justice Bill, Lord Chancellor, said in moving his second reading in the House of Lords.

Bus Bill running late

Publication of the Bus Bill was running a little bit late because there had been an enormous number of representations.

Havers wants evidence

Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, has written as a result of this action without any sort of precedent.

Winter motoring advice

Motorists should not venture out in bad weather conditions unless their journey was absolutely necessary.

Opening up BR catering to private sector

The private sector would be allowed to bid for catering contracts on British Rail in future, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, announced during Commons questions.

Hill Samuel Base Rate advertisement. With effect from the close of business on January 15, 1985, Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending will be increased from 10 1/2 per cent to 12 per cent per annum.

Clydesdale Bank PLC advertisement. Base Rate advertisement. Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from 15th January 1985 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 10 1/2% to 12% per annum.

NATIONAL Girobank advertisement. National Girobank announces that with effect from close of business 14th January 1985 Base Rate Its base rate was increased to 12% Deposit Accounts The rate of interest payable on deposit accounts was increased to 9% per annum.

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates advertisement. Lloyds Bank Plc has increased its Base Rate from 10.5% to 12% p.a. with effect from Monday 14th January, 1985.

TSB BANK advertisement. Base Rate With effect from the close of business on 14th January and until further notice TSB Base Rate will be 12% p.a. Trustee Savings Banks Central Board, PO Box 33, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8LU.

Clydesdale Bank PLC advertisement. Base Rate Clydesdale Bank PLC announces that with effect from 15th January 1985 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 10 1/2% to 12% per annum.

Trike not a vehicle advertisement. Sir Clive Sinclair's latest invention, the CS, was a trike covered by the electricity-assisted pedal cycles regulations.

Lloyds Bank advertisement. A thoroughbred amongst banks. Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BS.

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But if the 740 has all the traditional Volvo virtues (including power assisted steering) it also has some attractions of its own.

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Civil Service unions launch merger campaign

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The two largest civil service unions yesterday launched a campaign for a merger to create a new 230,000-strong union in spite of reservations by workers in some government offices.

A merger document will go to the annual conferences of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) and the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) in the spring.

If it is approved, ballots will be held in the autumn with the aim of starting the merger process on January 1 next year.

There is likely to be opposition from significant numbers of members of the CPSA, whose clerical workers may be suspicious of joining forces with a union representing mainly executive grade staff who are their managers.

Attempts are likely to be made at the CPSA conference at Brighton in May to delay the merger proposal for at least a year to allow further negotiations.

Thoses moves, and any similar manoeuvres in the SCPS, will be strongly resisted by the union leaderships.

The CPSA in particular is facing financial problems because of the loss within the next two months of 40,000 members in British Telecom to the Post Office Engineering Union.

An annual income of more than £1 million a year will be lost, although a "transfer fee" of almost £4 million will be paid by the Post Office Union.

Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the CPSA, said yesterday that with declining membership and a hostile employer there was a need for the unions to amalgamate.

He was convinced that an initial merger would be the catalyst for further reforms in the Civil Service trade union movement, leading eventually to a single 500,000-strong union "that will be able to face up to this Government".

The other unions most likely to join a new Union of Civil and Public Services would be the small Civil Service Union and Inland Revenue Staff Federation.

Mr Gerry Gillman, general secretary of the SCPS, said that the existence of two unions helped to polarize attitudes between those managed and their managers, but once both groups were members of a single union he hoped that differences would disappear.

The new union, which would be the eleventh largest in the TUC, could become a powerful left-wing grouping because at present both unions are controlled by the left.

Big freeze triggers extra help with bills

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Tens of thousands of pensioners and other claimants on supplementary benefit are likely to be entitled to extra help with their fuel bills because of the cold weather.

Last week's freeze triggered the allowances for "exceptionally severe weather" in much of East Anglia and parts of Essex, Bedfordshire, and Hampshire, the Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday.

The continuing cold weather may lead to other areas qualifying.

The payments are ruled by a formula of fearsome complexity which takes the number of days and degrees the weather is below a guideline temperature in a given meteorological office area, and then compares the mean temperature over the period of a fuel bill with the mean over previous years.

People receive a percentage contribution towards their fuel bill but they have to claim. The benefit is not paid automatically.

The criteria vary in different areas so that it has to be much colder in Aberdeen for claimants to qualify than in, say, Bourne-mouth.

Ms Harriet Harman, Labour's social services spokeswoman, called on the department yesterday for a widespread publicity campaign to ensure that people, especially the elderly, realized they were entitled to help.

The department said it would be putting up posters in post offices and the local benefit offices affected.

Life in shivering Poland: Part 2



Lengthy wait: Shoppers line up around the block as they wait to be served at a government butcher's shop in Warsaw.

Veal hunt points to poverty

This is the second of two articles from Roger Boyes in Warsaw on the economic hardships of daily life.

Meat is a problem in Poland and the search for it can be as complex and as clandestine as an espionage mission: furtive contacts are made between the wooden-slatted market stalls, code words are exchanged and a short trek through the freezing streets into the criminal underworld eventually leads the carnivorous customer towards the elusive red cart or pork chop.

Ordinary Polish adults are rationed to 2.5 kilos (5.5 lb) of meat a month and at least a quarter of that has to be poor quality stewing meat. Manual workers and children are given a slightly higher allocation, but the gap between what people want and what they can have is large, growing larger. However strenuously the Government tries to persuade the private farmer to sell his meat to the state - and thus make it available in shops - it will never keep pace with people's expectations.

This illustrates the central dilemma in day-to-day survival here. Poles, a large majority of whom were born after the desperate shortages of the war and the 1950s, have come to expect the authorities to provide at least a simulacrum of Western standards. Up to a million Poles a year travelled to the West during the 1970s and this has shaped their ideas of how society can be run.

So expectations are rising constantly; but the Government, in the grips of an economic crisis that has lasted over five years, is in no position to satisfy them. The resulting cracks are filled by the legal and the semi-legal, the black, the grey and the brown markets, the only growth sector.

According to official statistics, some 40 per cent of all meat in Poland is marketed illegally. By law all meat must be sold to the state and through the state - private sales are banned. The illegal route is proving to be the main way of securing the meat needs of the family.

The high-risk method of buying "black" meat is to visit the established vegetable or covered markets. There, between the cabbage and the potatoes, women in head scarves can be seen, apparently selling nothing at all, simply standing as if tuned in to an inaudible national anthem. Eye contact is made and one hissed sentence sets out the terms: veal, 700 zloties.

One needs and pretends to study the potatoes. The woman leaves and, at a safe distance, the customer follows. A car boot is opened, a bag of meat is handed over, the money tucked into what one can only assume is a brassiere, and the woman announces: "The market's full of agents at this time of year," presumably to justify the price.

Across the Vistula, in the down-at-heel Warsaw district of Praga, where criminal subcultures breed under laboratory conditions, one can buy pork, some of fresh. The long, deep courtyards around the Bastion Kosciuszko serve up illegal veal at night and illegal meat during the day.

Probably the safest way of buying meat - from the point of view of physical hygiene and the chance of detection - is to make a regular arrangement with the ladies who commute twice weekly from the countryside as emissaries of the farmers. Known only as Paul (Mrs) Bronislawa or Ewa Jajdzia - as opaque a cover name as one could hope for - these intermediaries between town and country strike up deals with the residents of housing estates or the junior

employees of ministries and make big deliveries. They can be seen on the suburban commuter trains, rucksacks and shopping bags hiding perhaps 40 kilos of meat, quietly dripping animal blood on the floor.

The price of such smuggled meat is often four or five times the official price in the shops, underlining the most disturbing trend of recent years - the gap between those who, with the help of dollars or large amounts of Polish currency, can come close to preserving their living standards and those with no influence and a fixed income.

A working definition of poverty is those people whose incomes amount to less than two thirds of the average wage. In 1982, that poverty level in Poland - that is, those earning less than 5,000 zloties a month - included three million members of working families and 1.2 million members of pensioners' families. In 1983, with the poverty barrier having gone up to 6,000 zloties a month, some 6 million Poles could be defined as poor.

Apart from the obvious categories - pensioners, students - the new Polish poor also include university lecturers, researchers, employees in the health service. With little chance of enriching their income by moonlighting, with little or no access to hard currency, these and many others are doomed to survival at a very basic level.

The wife of a prominent sociologist recently, delicately and only half in jest, approached a guest after dinner. "Could you make sure," she said to the western woman, "that you give Chris something to eat before he comes to dinner next time?" Almost single handed he had polished off the family's meat ration for a fortnight.

Concluded

Blacklisted veteran set to follow five generals in Brazil

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Brazil chooses its first civilian President for 20 years today when the 686-strong electoral college makes its choice between two men. Soundings show that 74-year-old Tancredo Neves, candidate of the Democratic Alliance coalition, will have a majority of 270 votes over his opponent, 53-year-old Paulo Maluf, a former Governor of São Paulo State.

The college is composed of all members of both Houses of Congress, most elected in 1982, and three representatives from each of Brazil's 23 state assemblies.

The election comes after a very eventful year in Brazilian politics. Few predicted that an elderly opposition politician on the secret service blacklist would be the man to follow five generals as president of Brazil.

The situation has come about for two basic reasons. At the beginning of last year there was a building-up of immense popular pressure for real political change, characterized by mass campaigns for the next president to be chosen by direct suffrage. Huge rallies in most of Brazil's cities, culminating in two attracting more than a million in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, demonstrated that much more change than the government had planned was essential if a political breakdown was to be avoided.

The danger was real. There had been waves of serious violence, including sackings of supermarkets, in 1982.

Although the Government just managed to thwart attempts by Congress to permit direct elections for the President, it had lost the initiative and could no longer designate its successor.

The other factor has been the stubborn candidacy of the Social Democratic Party (PDS) candidate, Paulo Maluf. Senator Maluf has been a cuckoo in the PDS nest since he managed to win the indirect election for the governorship of São Paulo state in 1979. When he defeated the officially sponsored candidate he demonstrated that a sufficiently determined man could take advantage of the machine for built up during 20 years of arbitrary and centralised military rule. If he could capture

certain key positions, he could gain power, in defiance of the majority will. Senator Maluf determined to repeat his state victory on a national scale, and last year he went on to win the nomination of the then-deeply split PDS.

But this turned out to be a pyrrhic victory. Earlier in the year, dozens of PDS deputies, concerned with their poor showing in the 1982 general elections and fearing for their fates in the 1985, open-ended campaign to elect a President by direct elections, they broke away from the mainstream PDS, first to form the Liberal Front, and later to join the main opposition party, the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB), in the Democratic Alliance.

The fact that Senator Tancredo Neves is the Alliance candidate, rather than the veteran PMDB president, Ulysses Guimarães, reflects the Alliance's need to appeal across as wide a spectrum as possible, with the main, rather negative, aim of preventing Senator Maluf gaining power.



Senator Tancredo Neves: Wide appeal with a negative aim.

So Brazil will now emerge from 20 years of military rule with a civilian president committed to taking the country back to full democracy. Senator Tancredo Neves has promised a new liberal constitution, direct elections for the next president, decentralization and the ending of rule by decree. However, such is the disparity within the broad coalition which will vote for Tancredo tomorrow, that the Alliance cannot be expected to hold together for long.

Eanes seeks advice in Lisbon political crisis

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

President Eanes of Portugal has convened the Council of State to advise him on the political crisis precipitated by his speech on New Year's Day. The council is expected to meet this week.

The speech was highly critical of Dr Mário Soares's Government and the country's political parties. The President said nothing had been done in the past year to help Portugal to overcome its economic crisis, and he pointed to "an inability to mobilize the human and natural resources of the country".

He criticized the parties for "monopolizing power" and said "changes must be made in political practice".

In anger, the coalition Government of Socialists and Social Democrats challenged the President to dismiss it. Under the constitution "the President may dismiss the Government only when it becomes necessary to secure the country's democratic institutions and after the Council of State has been consulted".

The presidential communiqué announcing the convocation of the council rejected the suggestion that either the Government's dismissal or the dissolution of Parliament was being considered at this stage.

Some political observers believe, however, that President Eanes will indeed dismiss the Government, dissolve Parliament and call new elections sometime before July, and after the 1985 budget has been passed by Parliament and negotiations for International Monetary Fund loans are completed.

They believe that the President would then resign and call an early presidential election, as well, in the hope that a new party being formed with big tacit backing would win both elections and give the country a president and a government with the same political bent.

President Eanes - elected as an independent - and Dr Soares have been continually at odds during the President's two terms in office.

Dr Soares would be a candidate in the presidential election. It is said he would like to step down as Prime Minister to dissociate himself from the economic and political crisis that has eroded his popularity.

Recent polls show that the new party backed by President Eanes has the support of 49 per cent of the voters even as it is being formed.

© CARS BOMBED: Home-made bombs destroyed two company cars in Lisbon suburbs yesterday, and police found and dismantled two others under cars in Setubal (AP reports). No injuries were reported.

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First deselection challenge

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The first serious deselection challenge to a sitting Labour MP is expected to take place in Walsall South on March 1.

Mr Brian Powell, chairman of Walsall Borough Labour Party, and former leader of Walsall council, has been nominated to challenge Mr Bruce George, the Labour MP, for selection as party candidate at the next election.

Although there are about 49 different nominations available in the constituency, including 30 trade union branches, Mr

Powell's nomination by St Matthew's ward is seen as a considered threat to Mr George.

Mr Powell, aged 49, described himself as a full-time politician. He said he was standing against Mr George because the democratic machinery existed and it was sensible that it should be used. "There is no acrimony on my behalf to Bruce George," he said.

"I think they would call me a left-winger, Bruce George calls himself a moderate."

Nominations for the selection process close on February 11 and the final choice will be made by a constituency party general management committee which is about 50-strong - small for Labour constituencies.

At the last election, Mr George, aged 42 and one of the party's back bench defence experts, held the seat with a majority of 702.

Walsall South has not figured on any of the lists of possible deselection challenges.

Ghost village of 25 acres up for sale

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

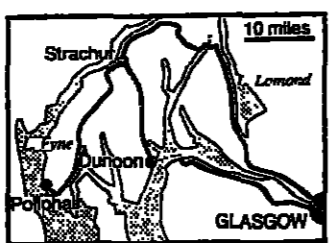
A village, built nine years ago to house 500 oil rig construction workers on the shores of Loch Fyne in Argyll but never occupied, is being offered for sale.

Pollphall, now a ghost village covering about 25 acres of beautiful countryside 90 miles west of Glasgow, has suffered the effects of weather and vandalism since its construction as a support village for workers at the Portavadie oil production platform site.

As a result of spectacular and costly miscalculation, no orders came for rigs and none was constructed.

The dry dock at Portavadie, completed in 1976, was thought to be the largest man-made hole in the world, and the cost of the dock and construction site was more than £11 million. But the dock remained unused and work to restore the area at a cost of nearly £1 million took place in 1983. That involved flooding the 100ft-deep dock, and covering the whole area with grass.

Pollphall is due to be reinstated to its former looks by next January, but the planning authority, Argyll and Bute District Council, has indicated that it would be prepared to consider alternative uses for the property, either residential, educational, or institutional, rather than to demolish the whole site.



The original owner sold the village some years ago, and the present owner, a company named Bjarac, has put it on the market. It found no takers at an asking price of £750,000. Bellingham, the agents, are now simply inviting offers, giving no guide price.

The village has a central area with a restaurant, dining room, conference rooms and shops, in theory at least, surrounded by living quarters; two-storey blocks built of concrete and timber cladding.

Many of the buildings are in a poor state, and the price is likely to depend on the estimate of the cost of repair and renovation. The accommodation was arranged in small self-contained flats, with internal partitions which can be moved to alter the size of the rooms.

At one time during its empty existence the village was suggested as a site for a fish farm. The local authority hopes that a use may yet be found for this wasteland among the steep hills of the Firth of Clyde.

Rapist given six life sentences

Alan Pearey was given six life sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for a series of rape and sexual attacks committed during a 16-month period in South London. Pearey, 35, of Ferrier Estate, Kidbrook, south London, admitted raping six victims and indecently assaulting a girl, aged 14 and three other indecent assaults between April, 1983, and July last year.

Mr Graham Boal, for the prosecution, said they were attacked either in train carriages, on train journeys to and from Charing Cross, or as they walked in lonely areas.

Pearey, an unemployed man, pleaded guilty to all the charges. He also received two years for each of the indecent assaults, to run concurrently with the life sentences.

Before he was jailed the court was told that Pearey was so remorseful for what he had done that he wanted to give one of his kidneys to enable someone who was gravely ill to lead a normal life.

Driving ban on Ian St John

The television presenter and former footballer, Ian St John, aged 46, was fined £300 and banned from driving for 12 months by Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday. At an earlier hearing, Sheriff Hazel Aronson had found St John, of Childwall Abbey Road, Liverpool, guilty of driving in Market Street, Edinburgh, with nearly twice the legal limit of alcohol.

Sentence had been deferred to allow St John to produce his driving licence, which showed he had one previous conviction for speeding.

Police to see MP

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, is to be interviewed by West Mercia police at the House of Commons today over his allegations that British intelligence was involved in the death last March of Miss Hilda Murrell, aged 78, of Shrewsbury.

Charity rock

The rock group Police has given £250 to Sheffield's Escalated young people's brass band to help the musicians to replace old instruments. The money will come from a charity set up by the group to help young musicians.

Greenham raid

Three women protesters against nuclear weapons were found inside RAF Greenham Common and ejected early yesterday, a few days after the Government announced plans for a stronger fence.

Senator's southern Africa tour ends



Homebound: Mr Kennedy and son Edward at Heathrow on the way home after their South African trip.

Kennedy adamant his visit 'great success'

By Our Foreign Staff

Senator Edward Kennedy was adamant yesterday that his eight-day tour of South Africa had been "a great success", despite the mountain of criticism it had attracted. He was speaking in London en route to Boston.

As he left Heathrow airport after a three-hour stop on his way home, he said: "I thought the visit was a great success. First of all I gained an even better insight into the appalling conditions of apartheid."

"Secondly, I think some of the South Africans have a recognition that a great majority of Americans do not support 'constructive engagement' and are very vitally opposed to apartheid. I think there are many people in South Africa that didn't want to believe it. But that happens to be true. I would say the visit was very useful."

Senator Kennedy said that on his return he would discuss ways of taking stronger measures against South Africa. "I look forward to working with my colleagues when I return to the US and effect stronger steps

which I will spell out in detail when I get back."

Earlier, in Lusaka, Mr Kennedy met the African National Congress leader, Mr Oliver Tambo, who explained why the group had turned from non-violence to sabotage and guerrilla warfare. After the ANC was outlawed by Pretoria in the 1960s, "we decided then that non-violence had run its course".

The senator told Mr Tambo he understood that when people were denied the right to effect peaceful change they often turned to violent means.

In Maputo yesterday, an American Congressional leader said US policy on South Africa gave Pretoria a "free hand to bully its neighbours and oppress the authorities long ago just as the African National Congress has been."

It purports to be distinctly pan-Africanist - favouring black exclusivity. However, the majority of its hierarchy eschews overt violence as a means of overthrowing the Government. Throughout the Kennedy visit it was clear that the authorities were prepared to allow Azapo centre stage to disrupt the senator's programme to the best of its ability.

Why Azapo was given free rein

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Of the black consciousness groups allowed to operate with any measure of freedom in South Africa, the Azanian Peoples Organization (Azapo), which succeeded in sending Senator Edward Kennedy scuttling from the country on Sunday, is probably the least meaningful.

It exists because the South African Government itself, in 1977, following the Soweto riots and the death in detention of the young Steve Biko - which made him an instant martyr of the black consciousness movement - imposed a ban on more than a dozen movements, numerous individuals and even a black newspaper which it considered were dangerous proponents of what in the vernacular of opposition is termed "the struggle".

Azapo, a distinctly post-Biko creation, has adopted a policy of outspoken opposition to capitalism and is frequently described in South Africa as being on the left of the black consciousness movement. Despite this rhetoric Azapo is far from being a socialist movement in the European sense - if it were it would have been hurried and possibly outlawed by the South African authorities long ago just as the African National Congress has been.

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© CAIN BATTLE: A police lieutenant and three blacks were killed yesterday in a gun battle with ANC guerrillas near Nongoma in the northern Natal province.

The Co-operative Bank announces a change in base rate

from 9.50% to 12.00% p.a. with effect from Tuesday 15th January 1985

Deposit rates will become 7 days notice 8.75% p.a. 1 months notice 9.50% p.a.

Co-operative Bank Cheque & Save

The national interest rate on Cheque & Save is now 12.00% p.a. (on amounts beyond £1,000)

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Midland Bank Interest Rates

Effective from 14th January 1985.

Base Rate Increases by 1½% to 12% per annum.

Deposit Accounts Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts increases by 1½% to 8½% p.a.



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The East-West arms dialogue

Reagan puts pressure on Belgium to maintain cruise missile timetable

From Christopher Thomas Washington

President Reagan, fearing a break in Nato solidarity at a critical time in superpower relations, strongly urged Mr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, in talks at the White House yesterday, to go ahead with the scheduled deployment of American cruise missiles in March.

The Administration fears that a delay in deployment could have a chain reaction in Europe, especially in the Netherlands, which has postponed a decision on deployment until November. The Dutch Government said it would move ahead on missile placements only if the Soviet Union further increased the number of its SS20 missiles. The US claims Russia has already done so.

Mr Martens is under heavy domestic pressure to postpone deployment pending the outcome of new superpower arms talks, which are expected to begin in about March. His own party, the Flemish Socialist Christians, stated in non-binding votes last November and again last week that deployment should be delayed.

The Administration believes that any crack now in Nato solidarity would strengthen the Soviet Union's bargaining position in the new arms talks. It is repeatedly that Moscow's primary aim is to drive a wedge between America and its Western European allies.

That consideration Washington suspects, was an important

Warsaw Pact summit off

Moscow (Reuter) - A Warsaw Pact summit meeting scheduled for this week has been postponed indefinitely, according to an official announcement due to be published in a Soviet newspaper today. A spokesman for the daily *Sovetskoye Rossiya* read the text of the brief announcement.

force behind Moscow's obvious enthusiasm in Geneva last week for the talks. Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, said on Sunday that the talks might collapse if deployment of missiles in Europe continues - a warning clearly designed to increase tensions in the West.

President Reagan said in an interview with a Belgian newspaper published over the weekend that "alliance solidarity in proceeding with deployment is a major reason why the Soviets decided to return to Geneva". Washington believes the accidental fire last week involving the Rocket motor of an unarmed US Pershing missile in West Germany could hardly have come at a worse time, since it provided a focus for a new wave of protests against deployment.

The President pointed out to Mr Martens that US medium-range missiles were already in place in Britain, West Germany and Italy and that the governments there had weathered the

protests. But a senior Administration official conceded that deployment would be "a dicey affair" for Mr Martens's centre-right coalition.

Mr Martens also met Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, who made it clear that the Administration is concerned about the export from Belgium of high technology items to the Soviet Union.

LONDON: The Foreign Office re-affirmed its view yesterday that Nato should proceed with its programme for deploying cruise and Pershing missiles, despite Mr Gromyko's warning. (Rodney Cowton writes).

The Foreign Office said that if Nato did not proceed with the programme it would amount to a unilateral concession outside the negotiating process.

PARIS: France yesterday announced its total rejection of the inclusion of its nuclear force in any negotiation in which it was not involved. (Diana Geddes writes).

BONN: West Germany has welcomed Mr Gromyko's weekend statements on arms control talks with the US but said any attempts to sway public opinion before negotiations began would call into question the good faith of the negotiators. (Reuter reports).



Braving the cold: Swimmers making for the bank after a swift lap in an open-air pool in Moscow this week.

Cold causes energy crisis in Romania

By Our Foreign Staff

As most of Europe continued to suffer in the bitter winter weather, Romania yesterday announced a drastic cutback of industrial production and more stringent energy-saving measures in an effort to prevent a collapse of the national power grid.

The announcement came on the fifth day of an unprecedented nationwide ban on private car driving, also caused by the harshest winter in years. The measures were adopted on Sunday at an emergency party meeting chaired by President Ceausescu. They

came after reports that the power grid was on the verge of breakdown several times this month, because of over-consumption and breakdowns at coal-fired power stations.

Industry was ordered to reduce the number of shifts from three to two or even one, according to a communiqué yesterday in the *Romania Libera* newspaper. Some plants were told to work a three-day-to-five-day week to save energy and heating.

Public and private lighting are being cut by half. The Weather Bureau reported -37C on Sunday night at

Miercurea Ciuc, central Transylvania, almost approaching the record -38.4C measured in 1942.

Elsewhere, the cold forced the shutdown of a nuclear power station at Cioros, northern Italy, and blacked out parts of Genoa for several hours.

In France, factories laid off workers due to a shortage of spare parts and market gardeners estimated damage to crops at tens of millions of pounds. Officials said 107 people had died as a result of the cold that has gripped the country over the past week.

One of the coldest spots on Sunday night was the Ardennes region of Belgium, where temperatures plunged to -28C.

In Denmark, the authorities threatened to fine people walking on the frozen Sound after 200 Danes tried to walk the two miles to Sweden across the frozen sea on Sunday. Three fell through thin ice in the middle and were rescued by police.

In the Netherlands, cold and fog delayed the transport of thousands of US troops for a Nato exercise, but officials said the manoeuvres would go ahead as planned.

Clinic's top doctor accused of 21 deaths

Lugano (Reuter) - The chief doctor of a private Swiss clinic went on trial yesterday charged with manslaughter over the deaths of 21 patients in 1981 and 1982.

The charges read out in court here accused Mr Antonio de Marchi, head physician of the Montebello clinic in Castagnola, and three of his employees of giving wrong diagnoses, mistaken treatments, incorrect drugs and drugs in too high a dosage.

The public prosecutor alleged that Mr de Marchi also smothered patients in their beds and locked in their rooms. He also was accused of failing to maintain proper standards of hygiene.

\$25m emergency aid by FAO

Rome (AP) - The UN Food and Agriculture Organization is extending \$25 million (\$22m) in emergency food aid to Eritrea and five other countries.

Ethiopia, Sudan, Niger and Uganda will get \$16.6 million and Sudan, an additional \$3 million in food aid. Food worth \$4,750,000 will go to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and \$900,000 in food aid goes to Colombian flood victims.

Terrorist hunt

Wiesbaden (AP) - The federal criminal office appealed for public help in finding four West Germans believed involved in a recent wave of attacks by the left-wing Red Army Faction. Warrants were issued for the arrests of Andrea Klump, Thomas Simon, Barbara Meyer, and her husband, Horst Meyer.

Lawyer quits

New York (AP) - The lawyer representing Mr Bernhard Goetz, accused of shooting four youths on the New York underground, said he was quitting the case because of a "basic irreconcilable disagreement over how the defence should be conducted. He would not elaborate.

Killer bush fires

Melbourne (Reuter) - Four big bush fires swept Australia's Victoria state yesterday, killing a man and two of his grandchildren near Kilmore, 31 miles north-west of Melbourne. Emergency services said hundreds of homes were destroyed and three firemen seriously injured.

Amal accused

Rome (AP) - Libya blamed Lebanon's Amal Shia Muslim group and PLO leader Mr Yasser Arafat backed by "American imperialism" for the assassination here on Sunday of the Libyan diplomat, Mr Farag Omar Mikyoum.

Moses arrested

Hollywood (Reuter) - Olympic champion hurdler Edwin Moses, aged 29, was arrested on Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard for soliciting a woman police officer masquerading as a prostitute, police said.

Corruption

Elections to Pakistan's National Assembly will be held on February 25, not February 5 as printed yesterday.

The Popieluszko murder trial

Secret policemen call each other liars

From Roger Boyes Warsaw

Their nerves frayed by days of questioning, two of the Polish secret policemen accused of killing Father Jerzy Popieluszko yesterday started to denounce each other as "liars" in the words of one courtroom observer, like "alleycats in a dingy cat-house".

It was the final day of testimony for the four defendants - ex-Colonel Adam Pietruszka, ex-Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, ex-Lieutenant Leszek Pezala and Waldemar Chmielewski, all now reduced to the rank of private by a sentence each way with the cross-examination of Pietruszka.

Under questioning from Judge Jerard Marjolewski, Pietruszka, who is accused of complicity in the killing of the pro-solidarity priest began to falter. He could not give a satisfactory explanation as to

why he had issued a special pass to the three kidnappers on the day of the attack on Father Popieluszko. The date on the pass must have been forged, he said. Nor could he explain why he had failed to report certain key facts about the kidnapping.

The former colonel's answers to the lawyers of Father Popieluszka's family were of "dazzle, sometimes contemptuous". "Any reasonably intelligent man... began the defence case of the Popieluszko family, Mr Edward Wende. Pietruszka interrupted: "I won't answer this question because I don't want to disappoint the plenipotentiary with my level of intelligence."

The thrust of the former colonel's testimony is that he did not inspire an attempt to cover up the kidnapping and the murder, and that he never issued orders that physical violence should be used against the priest. This directly contra-

dicts the testimony of his immediate subordinate, Piotrowski, who claims the former colonel spoke of bringing the priest "to the verge of a heart attack".

Piotrowski, watching the former colonel shift more and more blame on to his shoulders, suddenly rose yesterday and bitterly criticized his former superior officer. "On all the fundamental issues, Pietruszka is lying. When I was describing the basic character traits of my former boss, I forgot to mention one - his cunning."

"Now I don't have the courage to look my subordinate in the eye because I was naive enough to believe my superior officer and this alone is why I am in the dock."

The packed Toron courtroom watched as Piotrowski, who has admitted beating but not killing the priest, clutched the rail of the dock and let his voice rise. "I am fully aware of what I have done and I haven't tried

to make excuses... for me it's a question of honour."

Pietruszka's defence is, above all, a political one. While Piotrowski claims that he did not grasp the political implications of killing Father Popieluszko, his former superior officer said yesterday that it was always clear to him that such a step would be a blow to the policies of the Government.

"As a result of this deed the underground gained a pretext for slanderous statements that Interior Ministry employees are murderers."

Today the court will hear witnesses, the crucial one being the driver of Father Popieluszko, Mr Waldemar Chrostowski, whose escape made it possible to bring charges.

The defence lawyers of the four secret police agents are planning an assault on the testimony of the driver, hoping that this will create a rift for their clients, who all face possible death sentences.

Gunmen kill two French observers

Beirut (Reuter) - Gunmen shot dead two French ceasefire observers yesterday in the latest attack on French citizens and institutions in Beirut.

Security sources said Shia militiamen, ignoring an official ban, set up roadblocks in west Beirut after the French soldiers' Jeep was ambushed by a carload of gunmen, who opened fire with machine guns.

Four French observers have now been killed since the unit of 80 men was deployed in Lebanon last March to monitor the ceasefire line between west and east Beirut and in the hills above the capital.

Its deputy commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Cueno, was shot dead last week by gunmen near the "green line". An observer was shot dead by a sniper last June.

A Lebanese Government security committee, composed of all the main militias and charged with overseeing the security plan, deplored yesterday's shooting as criminal and cowardly.

Security forces in southern Lebanon, meanwhile, said checkpoints were set up at the weekend to block a Lebanese plan to establish Army control in the Kharroub hills.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli Army said it had made no effort to block the Lebanese deployment. Beirut radio reported that more than 40 people were killed or injured, including some Israeli soldiers, when two bombs went off near an Israeli patrol about six miles from Tyre.

Delors spells out his 'new Europe' dream

From Ian Murray Strasbourg

Europe must return to the attack, M Jacques Delors, President of the new European Commission, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday, spelling out his plans and dreams for the next four years.

To build what he called a "single Europe" he proposed to tear down all frontiers within the Community by 1992. More urgently, he said, the terrible rise in unemployment had to be reversed within two years. At the same time Europe had to reaffirm its identity and its cultural diversity.

His Commission, he said, would take decisive steps in three areas: it would work for a large internal market; for strengthening the European Monetary System, and for the convergence of economies to lead to higher growth and more jobs. More complete details would be given to the Parliament in March.

There was notice that M Delors will use every possible means to force decisions through the Council to open the internal market - the area of responsibility of Britain's senior Commissioner, Lord Cockfield.

Achievement in this area had been held up by the rule requiring unanimity. M Delors admitted, but now he would set a programme, a timetable and a method to see there was no shirking of responsibilities.

Work had to start without delay, and there could be no excuses. "European affairs often give the impression of being a contest between member states,



M Delors: Vision of new European unity.

instead of presenting the picture of a united team, a party of climbers scaling greater heights," he said.

His aim was to make countries, companies and workers aware of the vital interest of the European dimension, so that they could become the instruments of change.

He promised to strengthen the ECU (European Currency Unit) by extending its use, and suggested creating an "official ECU" to share global monetary management with the United States.

A strengthened EMS backed by a more widely-used ECU, he said, could reopen the path to monetary union, growth and job creation. "What a triumph if the Community could demonstrate that monetary stringency and the fight against unemployment go hand-in-hand."

Tamils destroy bridges in festival offensive

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Tamil separatist rebels in northern Sri Lanka yesterday marked the Tamil Harvest Festival with explosions that damaged five bridges and cut off Jaffna from Point Pedro, northernmost town in the Jaffna peninsula. The armed services were said to be restoring order.

Government radio said the "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam", which claimed responsibility for the attacks, had said the purpose was to restrict military movements, but they had also affected the civilian population and food supply to towns in the north.

Security forces were on a 24-hour alert yesterday after intelligence reports that some guerrilla groups may try to make a declaration of independence to coincide with the festival.

The "Liberation Tigers" are the biggest of the rebel groups in the north.

NEW YORK: The President of Sri Lanka, Mr Junius Jayewardene, conceded in an interview published this week that the armed forces have committed "excesses" in dealing with the Tamil insurgency (AP reports).

"There have been excesses by the armed forces. We don't deny them," he says in an interview in this week's *Newsweek* magazine. "These things happened in Vietnam, in Londonderry. They happen in India every day."

President Jayewardene also says he will hold no more talks with the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) "unless they give up their call for a separate Tamil state."

How Argentines have strengthened their forces

Interceptor/Strike	PRE-WAR	CURRENT
Skyhawk A-4P	58	54
Neosher/Dagger	25	32
Mirage III series	21	37
Mirage 5	10	9
NAVAL AIR FORCE		
Attack		
Skyhawk A-4Q	11	24
Super Etendard	4	14
Total for both services		
Exocet missiles	5	28
Modern submarines (Post 1975)	2	4 (and 4 under construction)
Modern escorts (Post 1975)	5	10 (and 5 under construction)

THE ARSENAL: In its efforts to rebuild its military forces after the Falklands conflict, Argentina has bought equipment from nations which include some of Britain's Nato allies, and some of it even includes British components (Rodney Cowton writes).

A survey of Argentina's re-equipment programme, published yesterday by the Bradford School of Peace Studies, relies heavily for its information on other published sources, but it is probably the most up-to-date assessment of Argentina's new equipment includes submarines and frigates built in West Germany, which were ordered before the conflict, and French-built Exocet and Israeli Gabriel anti-ship missiles.

Objections hold up scuttled tanker heading

From Mario Modiano Piraeus

The Piraeus appeal court trying 13 Greeks for the alleged scuttling of the Liberian tanker Salem in 1980, after having allegedly embezzled its oil cargo and sold it to South Africa, has been delayed by several objections from lawyers trying to gain a postponement.

Defence lawyers claim that Demetrios Georgoulis, Master of the Salem and one of 12 missing defendants, as well as his first engineer, Antonis Katomiroplous, who is deemed, have been tried in Monrovia, and acquitted

Marcos misses opening of assembly

Manila (AP) - President Marcos failed to appear at the reopening of the Philippines National Assembly yesterday, prompting renewed speculation that he is recovering from a serious illness.

However, assemblymen were treated to copies of a presidential speech in which President Marcos said the communist rebel threat has reached a "new dimension".

"The growing visibility of insurgents and the frequency of encounters plainly suggests a new dimension to the problem we must face," Mr Marcos said.

Low-gear chess start

Moscow (Reuter) - Anatoly Karpov and Gary Kasparov got off to a slow start in game 41 of their world chess title match after a four-day break. The two Soviet grandmasters took two hours over their first 12 moves.

Karpov, the champion, looking increasingly tired by the four-month struggle, had called a time-out on Friday. He leads 5-1 and needs only one more win but since November has been unable to break down Kasparov's defence.

'Time' prints correction to Sharon story

New York (Reuter) - Time magazine printed a correction yesterday to part of its story which led to a \$50 million libel suit by the former Israeli defence minister Mr Ariel Sharon.

The correction, in copies of the magazine which went on sale yesterday, came as the jury prepared to begin deliberating on a verdict in the two-month-long case.

Mr Sharon, now Israel's minister of Industry and Commerce, has from the start demanded a full retraction and apology for the story, which he said portrayed him as instigator of a bloody 1982 massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in Beirut.

A Time spokesman, Mr Michael Lofman, said the correction had nothing to do with any moves to reach a last-minute settlement. He said Time had long promised to issue such a correction if warranted.

In its February, 1983, cover story, Time said an official Israeli inquiry into the massacre found that Mr Sharon and other Israeli military officials shared indirect responsibility for the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Lebanese Falangist soldiers.

A key paragraph of Time's article said a secret appendix to the report of Israel's official Kahan commission on the killings - known as Appendix B - included "further details about Sharon's visit to the Gemayel family on the day after Bashir Gemayel's assassination."

In its four-paragraph statement published yesterday, Time said the Israeli Government had permitted an Israeli lawyer representing the magazine to examine the secret appendix.

"Based upon this examination last week, Time now issues a correction: Appendix B does not contain further details about Sharon's visit to the Gemayel family. Time regrets that error," the magazine said. But it stood by the substance of the disputed paragraph.

Forty-first game

White, Karpov; Black Kasparov	Petrov Defence
1 P-K4 P-K4	2 N-K12 N-K12
2 P-Q4 P-Q4	3 B-K2 K-KP
3 P-Q4 P-Q4	4 B-K2 B-K2
4 P-Q4 P-Q4	5 P-K4 P-K4
5 P-K4 P-K4	6 P-Q4 P-Q4
6 P-Q4 P-Q4	7 P-Q4 P-Q4
7 P-Q4 P-Q4	8 P-Q4 P-Q4
8 P-Q4 P-Q4	9 P-Q4 P-Q4
9 P-Q4 P-Q4	10 P-Q4 P-Q4
10 P-Q4 P-Q4	11 P-Q4 P-Q4
11 P-Q4 P-Q4	12 P-Q4 P-Q4
12 P-Q4 P-Q4	13 P-Q4 P-Q4
13 P-Q4 P-Q4	14 P-Q4 P-Q4
14 P-Q4 P-Q4	15 P-Q4 P-Q4
15 P-Q4 P-Q4	16 P-Q4 P-Q4
16 P-Q4 P-Q4	17 P-Q4 P-Q4
17 P-Q4 P-Q4	18 P-Q4 P-Q4
18 P-Q4 P-Q4	19 P-Q4 P-Q4
19 P-Q4 P-Q4	20 P-Q4 P-Q4

The Royal Bank of Scotland

Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc announces that with effect from close of business on 14th January 1985 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 10½ per cent per annum to 12 per cent per annum.

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France sticks to islands package

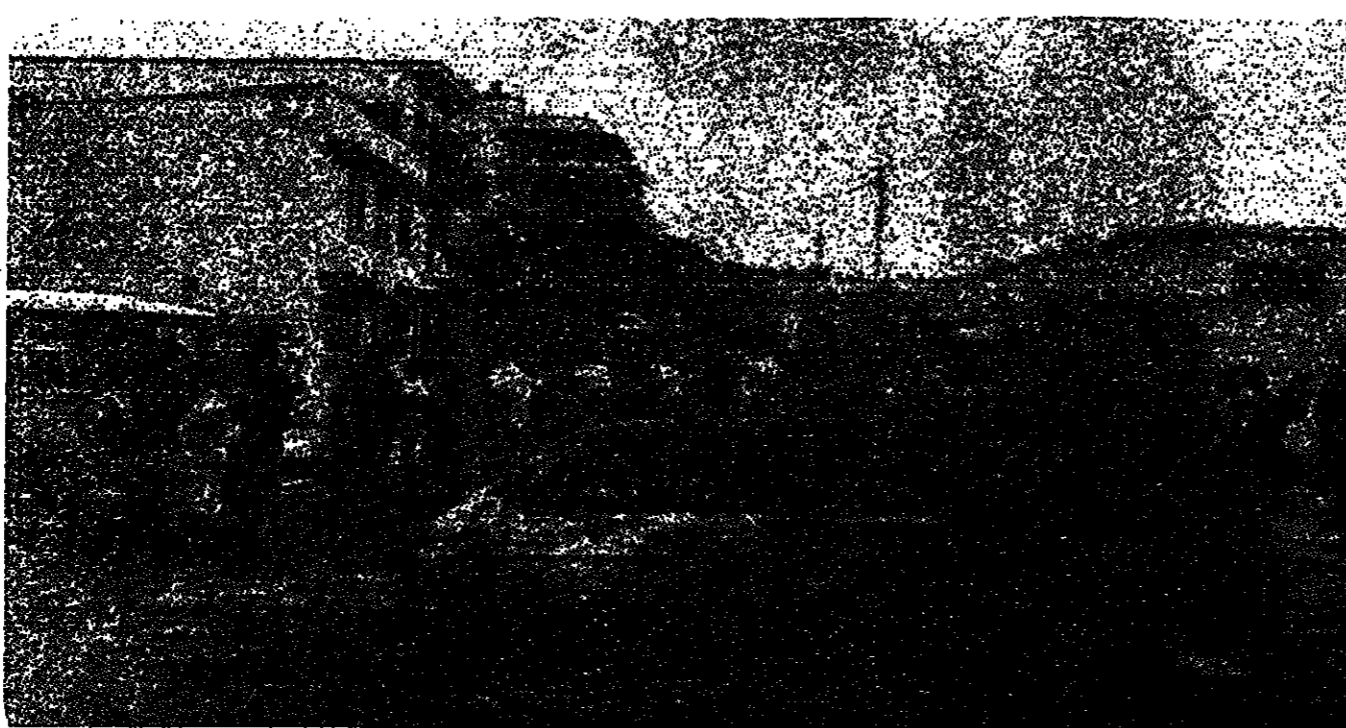
From Diana Geddes Paris

President Mitterrand is expected to explain the Government's attitude towards the latest explosive developments in New Caledonia when he appears on television tomorrow night for a pre-arranged hour-long interview.

Despite gloomy pronouncements from among opposition politicians in France that the Pisanis proposals for the future of the islands are now dead, the Government evidently still hopes that the referendum on the Pisanis "package deal" of independence for the islands linked to a contract of continued close association with France, will be able to go ahead.

Although M Ywéné Ywéné, the official spokesman for the FLNKS, the Kanak separatist movement, has said that there is now no question of the separatists taking part in the referendum unless the vote were limited to the Kanak people alone, M Jean-Marie Tjoudou, the FLNKS leader, insisted only on the separatists' demand "for the pure and simple restitution of the Kanak people's sovereignty over their country".

That, in fact, marks no change from his position, and leaves open the question of the



Troubled island: The aftermath of weekend clashes in Noumea between police and demonstrators

FLNKS' eventual participation in the referendum which is due to be held in July.

The Government expects the separatists' attitude to become clearer over the next three days which have been declared a period of mourning for the two Kanak separatists, M Eloi Machoro and M Marcel Nomnaro, killed by police early on Saturday morning.

Both in France and in New Caledonia, considerable controversy continues to surround the circumstances of their death, particularly that of Mr Machoro, the Marxist leader of the

hardline faction of the FLNKS. There is a strong suspicion that he was in fact deliberately murdered by the police with the possible connivance of the French authorities.

Why did it take 39 hours for the police to publish their version of the events? It is asked. Why did they not say that the farm that was allegedly under siege by Mr Machoro and his men at the time of the police intervention, in fact belonged to a Kanak?

Why was Mr Machoro shot full in the chest by a bullet from one of the elite Sharpshooters

(the French equivalent of the SAS), when orders had been given simply to "neutralize" the separatists? Why was it claimed that Mr Machoro was firing at the police when he was hit, when eyewitnesses said that he was carrying his gun over his shoulder?

M André Lajoie, leader of the Communist Party in the French National Assembly, has called for an official inquiry. A thousand mourners wept and chanted at tribal funeral ceremonies here yesterday for the two black militant leaders (Reuter reports).

The bodies were laid to rest under a bower as the independence-seeking Melanesian Kanaks filed past.

Mr Nomnaro's body was lowered into the grave and Mr Machoro, the most militant of Kanak leaders, was being buried today after a further period of mourning.

M Pisanis ordered a state of emergency on Saturday after the killing of Mr Machoro, which he feared would set off widespread violence in the territory, where 19 people have died in unrest since mid-November.

Pol Pot's ex-associate is new Cambodia Premier

Bangkok (AFP) - Mr Hun Sen, a former associate of Pol Pot, the Khmer Rouge leader, but who turned against him after the Vietnamese chased the Khmer Rouge from Phnom Penh in 1979, was elected Prime Minister of Cambodia yesterday, the official Cambodian news agency, SPK, said.

He succeeds Mr Chan Sy, who died of heart disease on December 31.

Mr Hun Sen, aged 33, and Foreign Minister, was unanimously elected by the eighth plenary session of the National Assembly.

● NONG SAMET: Cambodian guerrillas clashed with Vietnamese troops at two border points yesterday as non-

communist forces braced themselves for a Vietnamese assault on their last surviving camp, military guerrillas said at this Thai border village (Reuter reports).

They said at least nine guerrillas of the Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front were wounded when a new battle erupted.

● TOKYO: China has drastically increased its air strength at bases within 300 miles of its border with Vietnam, a Japanese newspaper reported yesterday (AP reports).

Quoting unidentified military sources, the national paper *Shimbu* said China now has about 1,000 combat aircraft in the area.

West Germany's new miracle

Boom gives Kohl a boost

Barely a day goes by without fresh evidence of the remarkable recovery of the West German economy. The economic heart of Europe is beating with such vigour that Bonn appears almost taken aback by the success of its policies, and the latest forecast is that the economy will grow by some 3 per cent this year.

This follows the recent publication of statistics showing the economy is growing at twice the rate it was in 1983, and that last year's inflation rate, at 2.4 per cent, was the lowest for 15 years.

The country's trade surplus in 1984 was expected to reach almost DM 55,000 million (21,400 million), a record easily surpassing the total of DM 51,300 million for the previous year.

Indeed, so good have recent economic indicators been that some commentators are already talking about a new economic miracle. And the Kohl Government's resounding success in this field is the main reason for its continuing popularity, evidenced by the latest opinion poll, which gave the centre-right coalition a comfortable 53 per cent of the votes of those asked.

The strength of the economy, the Western world's third largest, is demonstrated by a battery of healthy figures, which in turn have induced a fresh optimism in German industry that is having visible political and social consequences. The new boom is being generated by a surge in exports, far outstripping the rise in imports. In real terms exports

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

grew by some 10 per cent over 1983, while imports were up by 6 per cent.

West German deliveries to the United States have gone up by nearly 50 per cent, while those to the European Community, which account for one half of West German trade, have also been rising fast.

German industry's order books are now full and the boom shows no signs of slackening during the winter months.

The main reason for this is the strength of the dollar, making German exports more competitive, and equally importantly holding down the D-Mark against the currencies of West Germany's main EEC competitors.

But the new miracle is not simply dollar-induced. The very low inflation rate compares impressively with even the respectably small rises in some other EEC countries now. And industry is also becoming more efficient. Wage costs per unit of output fell by 1.1 per cent in 1984 and were down again last year. The shorter working hours agreed in several important industries, especially the giant metalworking industry, have not yet pushed company profits down.

Company profits also went up again last year, and are expected to rise again in 1985 by some 20 per cent for the 100 main officially quoted companies.

The stock market has been doing well, with share prices rising to record levels and a large number of new companies being quoted for the first time.

In particular there has been a massive new investment in the very areas where Germany seemed to be in danger of lagging behind - in high technology and communications.

All this has shown itself in a number of ways. The Volkswagen car company, for example, which was recently struggling with dangerously high losses, made a profit last year and has seen rising sales.

There are still problems and dangers. The main political problem is the stubbornly high rate of unemployment, which shows little sign of coming down quickly. Allied to this is the slow but steady change in union attitudes, symbolized by the lengthy engineering strike last year. Though vaunted industrial harmony has been restored, the new and well educated generation of union leaders is not leading the same compliant workforce that created the first economic miracle.

Private consumption has continued to be subdued, and the plans for catalytic converters have confused the car market. High technology has fuelled the boom in southern Germany, but has led to a growing discrepancy with the old industrial north of the country.

Nevertheless the Government now feels the economy has been brought under control, is set for sustained expansion and will benefit especially from the massive income tax cuts, the first stage of which is planned next year.

Law Report January 15 1985 Family Division

Natural father given custody of ward and leave to take her abroad

In re a Baby

Before Mr Justice Lacey

Care of a baby conceived by artificial insemination was granted to Mr and Mrs A, the natural father and his wife, and the court gave leave for the baby to be taken out of the jurisdiction to be brought up in another country, although the child remained a ward of court.

Mr Justice Lacey, in giving judgment in open court in the Family Division, restated the rule appearing to publicists and wards of court and said that it would be kind and compassionate of the media to leave the couple alone to bring up their child in peace and quietness of mind.

Mr Michael Tillett for Mr and Mrs A; Mr Frank Moat for the London Borough of Barnet.

MR JUSTICE LACEY said that the baby's provenance was novel and had attracted a good deal of public interest. The publicity was before the birth and before the child was made a ward of court and was legitimate.

The father and his wife were both in their thirties and had been married for some years. The father was fertile but the wife had a congenital defect which prevented her from having a child.

Both wanted a child but in their home country adoption was slow and the child was usually aged about five years at adoption. The couple wanted a child from birth.

The father approached the London Borough of Barnet, an agency in America, which paid the agency money and the agency undertook to find a surrogate mother to bear his child in England.

In 1984, the father came to England for the sole purpose of providing seminal fluid for insemination of the surrogate mother. The semen was introduced into the mother by a qualified nurse. The father and the surrogate mother never met. Conception resulted from the insemination. It was agreed that at birth the baby would be handed over to the father and his wife.

Mr and Mrs A came to England in anticipation of the birth which occurred on January 4, 1985. On that day the London Borough of Barnet was granted a place of safety order (see section 28 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969). The baby remained in hospital-cared for by the nurses.

On January 8 the father issued the writs for summary judgment for the wardship of the child. The writs named Mr Tillett and Mr Moat. The father and his wife were present.

By that time the local authority had made a lot of inquiries but had still to complete those inquiries. The local authority completed the inquiries in the matter and restored to his Lordship on January 11.

The evidence established that Mr A was the natural father and that the

natural mother had voluntarily relinquished her parental rights and had left the baby in hospital some hours after birth and had not seen her since. The local authority accepted the father's application that he and his wife be given the care and upbringing of the baby.

First and foremost and at the heart of the jurisdiction was what was best for the baby. The methods used to produce a child as the baby had been and the commercial aspects raised delicate problems of ethics, morality and social desirability. Those problems were under active consideration elsewhere and were not relevant.

The baby had been born and all that mattered was what was best for her and not how she arrived. His Lordship would reject any suggestion that the father and his wife were unsuitable as parents because they had entered into the arrangements.

What was best for the baby? The natural mother did not want her, Mr A and his wife wanted her. They were both highly qualified, professional people with a house in the country and the child would be brought up in a family environment. The father was fertile but the wife had a congenital defect which prevented her from having a child.

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Council in breach of gypsy site duty

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another, Ex parte Lee

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another, Ex parte Bond and Others

Before Mr Justice Mann

[Judgment delivered January 14]

Hertfordshire County Council, in failing to provide additional sites for gypsies when its assessment of what was an appropriate number of pitches had for years been far above the number provided, was in breach of its duty under section 6 of the Caravan Sites Act 1968, as amended by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980, to provide adequate accommodation for gypsies residing in or resorting to its area.

The correct approach was to ask simply whether at the moment the question was to be answered, there was an adequate accommodation for gypsies residing in or resorting to the area. If the answer was no, then whether any breach of duty should be visited by relief was a matter of discretion.

So simple an approach was appropriate having regard to the language of the statute and to the consideration that the court was not dealing with a technicality but with the ability of people to have secure

accommodation for their homes as reasonably practicable by Parliament and with the removal of the often injurious environmental impact upon the public and local residents of unauthorized gypsy encampments.

His Lordship adopted the explanation given by Mr Justice Woolf and added a further consideration that the qualifications imposed by the original section 6(2) never applied to the duty imposed upon a council such as was Hertfordshire. It was peculiar to county boroughs and London boroughs. The duty imposed upon the county council was not an absolute one, in the absence of a direction.

The financial restraint must have been a decisive restraint until it was removed in August 1978. The removal of the restraint had achieved six pitches.

A gypsy site was rightly or wrongly an unpopular thing. That was why the provision of such a thing was a burden imposed by Parliament upon county rather than upon district councils. The county council had failed to undertake the task put upon it.

There was no reason in principle why a declaration should not be made in proceedings for judicial review even though private right was not asserted. Accordingly a declaration would be granted.

The secretary of state declined to intervene on the basis that the county council was not in breach of its statutory duty. That was a false basis. The decision must be quashed.

Solicitors: Lance Kent & Co, Chesham; Mr W. Church, Hertford; Treasury Solicitor.

Inherent jurisdiction over solicitors

Symbol Park Lane Ltd v Skegges Palmer

Before Lord Justice Stephenson and Lord Justice Robert Goff

[Judgment delivered December 21]

Bearing in mind the existence and nature of the jurisdiction under the Solicitors Act 1974 and the circumstances in which the inherent jurisdiction had been invoked in *Singer & Johnson* (1890) 15 App Cas 203 and in *In re a Solicitor* ([1961] Ch 491), the inherent jurisdiction must be regarded as a residual jurisdiction which would only be invoked in very special circumstances where, although an order for taxation could not be made under the Act, justice required that it should be made. The structure of section 70 of the 1974 Act was such that the court should only invoke inherent jurisdiction to depart from it when it was necessary

to do so to put right what would otherwise be a clear injustice.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application by Symbol Park Lane Ltd for leave to appeal against an order of Mr Justice Patten who allowed an appeal by Skegges Palmer from an order by Master Topley for taxation of four bills of costs delivered by Skegges Palmer to Symbol Park Lane.

Mr George Laurence for Symbol Park Lane; Mr David Latham for Skegges Palmer.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF, delivering the reserved judgment of the court, said that in the instant case there was no such injustice which required the exercise of the court's inherent jurisdiction. Symbol Park Lane had ample opportunity to obtain an order for taxation under the Act, and all that

had happened was that they had simply allowed the 12-month period to elapse after the delivery of the bills of costs without making an application.

His Lordship felt compelled to review the passage in *Halsbury's Laws of England* (4th edition (1981) vol 44, para 178, pp135-136, did not accurately represent the law on the subject. It confused the second and third of the three jurisdictions described by Mr Justice Stirling in *In re Zark* (1888) 41 Ch D 326, 331-332.

In consequence, it did not provide an accurate description of the scope of the inherent jurisdiction of the court. The clearest description of the three jurisdictions to be found in the judgment of Mr Justice Stirling in that case.

Solicitors: Raksoos; Skegges Palmer.

Barclays Bank Interest Rates.

BASE RATE

Barclays Bank PLC announces that with effect from the close of business on 14th January 1985, their Base Rate was increased from 10½% to 12%.

This new rate also applies to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.



Reg. Office: 54 Lombard St., EC3P 3AH. Reg. No's 1026167 and 920890.

Williams & Glyn's

Interest Rate Changes

Williams & Glyn's Bank announces that with effect from 14th January 1985 its Base Rate for advances is increased from 10½% to 12% per annum.

Interest on deposits at 7 days' notice is increased from 7¼% to 9% per annum.



Williams & Glyn's Bank plc
A member of The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

Peace aim of China-US link stressed by general

From Mary Lee, Peking

The visiting chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Vessey, said yesterday: "It is important for all to know that (Sino-US) military ties are designed to promote peace and understanding and threaten no third party."

He made the remark - which observers say was directed at the Soviet Union - during a long toast at a banquet at the end of his stay in Peking. Present were Yang Dezhil, Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army and senior military leaders.

General Vessey said he agreed with Yang that the two sides should abide by the US-China joint communiqués. (These deal largely with the problem of Taiwan. China argues that under the communiqués, the latest of which was signed in 1982, the US is

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Pakistan: Hasan Arif

By Caroline Moorehead

Sometime next week, if the law were to run its proper course, Dr Hasan Zafar Arif, lecturer in philosophy at the University of Karachi, and now in Karachi Central Jail, should go free.

Dr Arif was taken from his home by police on October 21. He is being held under Martial Law Regulation No 51 and the charges against him revolve around the suggestion that he "indulged in 'agitational activities', such as to 'impair the normal functioning and efficiency of the university'."

Dr Arif, who will be 40 next month, studied at Reading University in the late 1960s and after taking his PhD spent a year at Harvard.

Dr Arif's former wife and 11-year-old son live in Manchester. According to a letter they recently received, Dr Arif, though not being treated, is being held among Category C prisoners, where conditions are very poor.

Dr Hasan Zafar Arif: Accused of 'agitation'.

Opposing claims after battle in the Sahara

Rabat (AP) - Morocco has confirmed that a big battle took place over the weekend between its forces and Polisario guerrillas in the disputed Western Sahara.

An earlier guerrilla communiqué from Algiers claimed Polisario forces shot down a Moroccan Mirage F1 fighter, killed 311 Moroccan soldiers, wounded another 250 and forced a "disorderly retreat".

The Moroccan information Ministry confirmed there had been a violent combat on Saturday between Moroccan forces and heavily armed and armoured mercenaries, but claimed Moroccan troops pushed the guerrillas back with heavy losses.

The guerrillas claimed the engagement took place along a partially completed defence wall being erected by Morocco.

Korean dissident stopped from boarding plane

Seoul (AP) - Dozens of police stopped Mr Kim Young-Sam, the South Korean dissident leader, from boarding a domestic flight to visit his father in the southern city of Masan, aides to Mr Kim reported.

Accompanied by his wife and two secretaries, the former opposition party leader was to have flown to Kimhae but police surrounded him in the passenger lobby of Kimpo domestic airport. Seoul, to keep him from boarding the plane, the aides said.

Mr Kim, aged 57, who once headed the now outlawed opposition New Democratic Party, is among 15 former politicians still barred from politics under a Government political blacklist law of 1980. The Government plans to hold National Assembly elections on February 12.

السلامة والهدوء

You've heard the fallacies about the NHS drugs bill. Now here are the facts.

From the 1st April the Department of Health proposes to cut the range of medicines prescribable on the NHS. This means that many valuable treatments will not be freely available in any form.

Below we present some facts and fallacies about medicines and their costs to Britain. We hope that this information will help you to understand why this bureaucratic plan (which would reduce NHS doctors' prescribing freedom, impair the treatment of some patients and harm the British pharmaceutical industry) is as unnecessary as it is uncaring.

FALLACY: The NHS medicines bill is rapidly escalating and running out of control.

FACT: Over the past 20 years the medicines bill, as a proportion of total NHS expenditure, has remained almost constant. It is still under 10 per cent of NHS costs.

FALLACY: There are as many as 17,000 products available on the NHS TWICE as many as 25 years ago.

FACT: When government ministers refer to 17,000 products they are talking about product licences, the numbers of which have, in fact, halved not doubled since 1971. Doctors prescribe almost entirely from a range of just over 2,000 products listed in the Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (MIMS).

FALLACY: Doctors' prescribing in the UK is excessive.

FACT: Doctors in this country write on average 6.5 prescriptions per patient a year. Doctors in comparable developed countries - such as Germany, France, Italy and Spain - write almost twice as many prescriptions for each patient.

FALLACY: Medicine prices in this country are too high and are unfair to the taxpayer.

FACT: Medicine prices in this country are competitive with those in other major manufacturing nations - and have been subject to government regulation since 1957. Per head, Britain spends on medicines about half the amount recorded in Germany, France, America or Japan. The average cost to the taxpayer of an NHS prescription is just over £4. The average cost of treating an NHS patient in hospital is around £550 a week.

FALLACY: Pharmaceutical companies make excessive profits.

FACT: Pharmaceutical companies, on average, earn a real return on historic capital of 17-18 per cent on sales to the NHS - the same as the average profit for manufacturing industry as a whole.

FALLACY: The pharmaceutical companies are mainly multi-national, and make little contribution to the nation's economy.

FACT: Pharmaceutical exports from the UK by multi-national research based companies exceed imports by some £650 million a year - a considerable benefit to British taxpayers and the national economy.

FALLACY: Pharmaceutical companies are not producing any really worthwhile new products.

FACT: In the last 25 years there have been major new products for the treatment of, for example, asthma, epilepsy, heart disease, ulcers, virus diseases, high blood pressure, Parkinson's disease, leukaemia in children, some other cancers and mental illnesses. Furthermore new drugs have played a major role in saving the lives of patients needing heart, kidney and liver transplants.

FALLACY: The Government's proposals will save taxpayers £100 million.

FACT: Costs arising from the measures - unemployment benefits to former pharmaceutical company employees, re-employment costs, lost exports, could cost taxpayers more than the community will gain. In practical terms the only 'savings' to the taxpayer would come from the pockets of the sick, the elderly and the unemployed, who on occasions would have to pay directly for the medicines they need.

These are the facts. Do you really believe there is a case for setting up a 'limited list' of medicines for NHS patients?

The plan would damage severely the one British industry that is at present able to compete with the Americans, the Japanese and the Germans in international markets. Write to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1.



Fighting for a healthier future.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry.

SPECTRUM

The Human Village: the brain is the administrative centre of the body. In part two of our series, Science Correspondent Thomson Prentice looks at the complex ways in which it helps and protects us

The great dictator in us all



THE HUMAN VILLAGE
The brain initiates and controls every action and event. The workings of the brain's unique corridors of power are vastly more complicated than the biggest bureaucracy. Yet they function with unrivalled efficiency. The doors of the mind, literally the head office, are never closed. Behind them are filed the blueprints of our existence. Today we look through those doors.

BRAIN

The human brain is the most complex physical structure in the world. It is the most intriguing and most baffling area of the body. And it has shielded its secrets from scientists for centuries. "In studying the history of the human mind, each step forward has been the most painful and laborious achievement", wrote Carl Gustav Jung.

Our brain is more crowded with cells than any other tissue in the body. It represents one 50th of body weight (about three pounds), but consumes one fifth of the body's blood and oxygen supply.

But the brain does not lose weight when we do. Biological defence mechanisms make sure that during periods of starvation, virtually every other organ is sacrificed first. And only when the brain is dead, is the body considered to have died.

You were born with about ten billion nerve cells, or neurons; a bee has 950 neurons, an ant 250. Each human neuron communicates with its neighbours via many thousands of connections. In more primitive animals, most of these connections are genetically predetermined. Their behaviour and reactions are "fixed" from birth.

Only a few such pathways are predetermined in humans. During the long period of infancy, connections are formed in the light of experience, rather than by programming. Our ability to learn in this way is the unique quality and crowning achievement of being human.

Unlike other cells, neurons which die cannot be replaced. Every day, around 10,000 perish. The basis on which these cells are selected to die, and what causes their death, are mysteries.

From birth to adulthood, the brain quadruples in size. Much of the extra bulk is added by glial cells, whose function is also not fully understood, but which outnumber neurons ten to one.

Although the human brain is only one sixth the size of a sperm whale's brain, or a quarter the size of an elephant's, it has phenomenal overcapacity. Tens of thousands of neurons are believed to perform identical tasks. So although thousands die daily, the vast numbers of survivors provide plenty of alternative routes across the brain.

Instructions and information travel from one neuron to another via electrical impulses. Neurons manufacture and release chemical messengers, known as neurotransmitters.

The study of these chemicals is an important new branch of science, and one which is believed to hold the key to many crippling disorders of the brain. The most exciting recent discoveries have involved identifying the neuro-transmitter's role in many serious and degenerative diseases. This research has already led to a treatment for Parkinson's disease.

Although some descriptions compare the brain with an electrical wiring diagram, nerve impulses are much slower than ordinary electrical current. The maximum speed of a transmission across the brain is 350 feet per second, but often nerve impulses travel much more slowly.

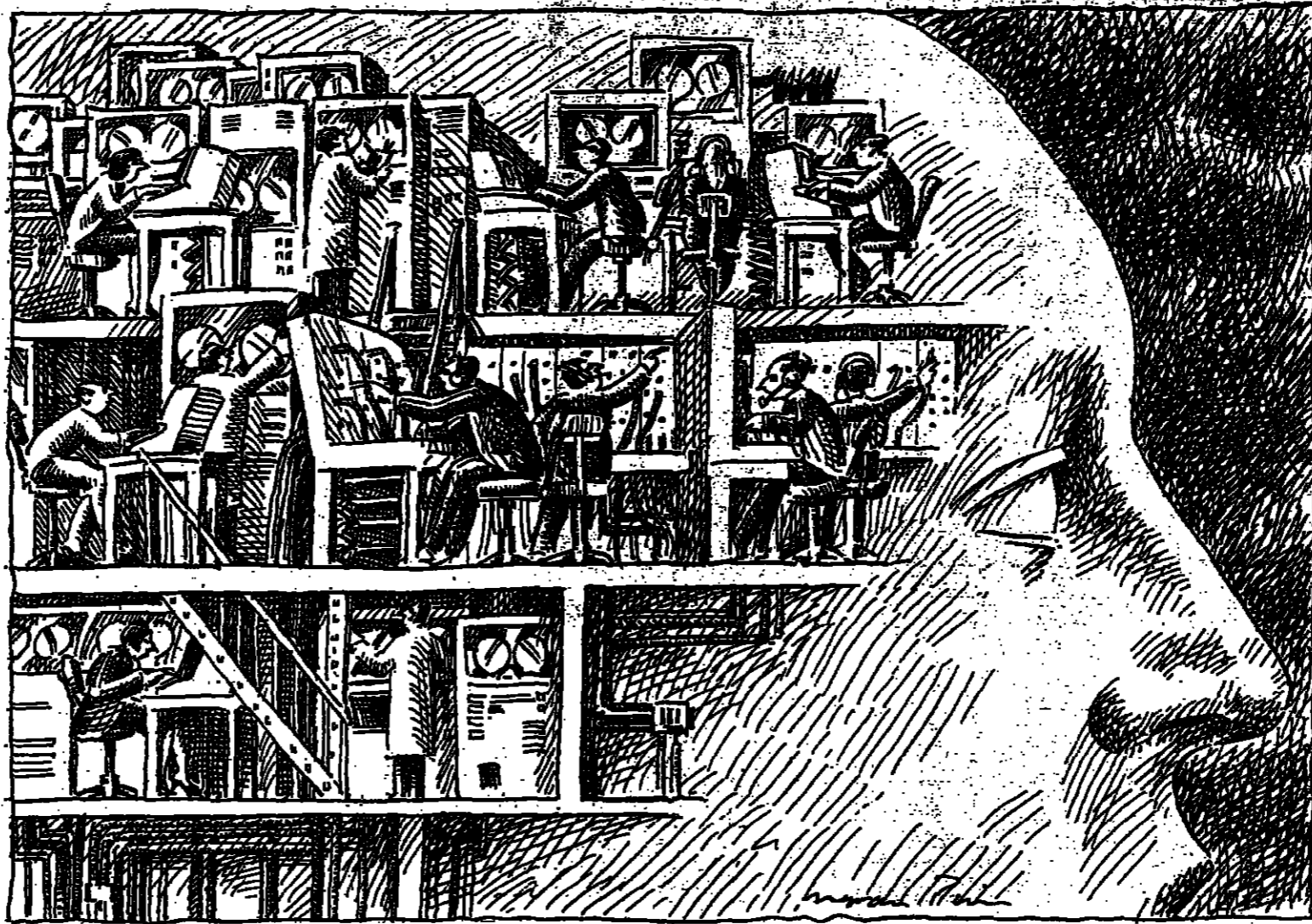
In fact, our reactions seem positively sluggish compared with those of many other animals. The part of the cell which transports electrical messages is an extended thin fibre known as an axon. The longer the axon, the greater the speed. Many other species have longer axons.

The largest part of the brain is divided into two halves. The left side is broadly associated with activity on the right side of the body, and vice versa; but this symmetry is not perfect.

For most people, the left side houses the speech and linguistic functions, and is dominant. Brain damage on this side has much more obvious effects. A stroke in the left hemisphere, for example, can often leave its victim speechless. This is an instance where the famous overcapacity of the brain seems powerless to compensate for the lost neurons.

A very small number of people are right-side dominant. This phenomenon is not directly related to whether they are left or right-handed.

Nineteenth century students of the brain delighted in citing the fact that the woman's brain is about five ounces lighter than a man's, as evidence of lower intelligence. Their conceit was deflated when the ratio between bodyweight was discovered. Since then, there has been some evidence that the left hemisphere is proportionately slightly smaller in the male. It has been suggested, but



not conclusively proven, that this is caused by the exposure of the foetal brain to the male hormone, testosterone.

However, leading British neurobiologist, Steven Rose, believes this difference in size has no relevance to the alleged mental and emotional differences between men and women. Dr Malcolm Carruthers, a clinical pathologist, disagrees. He argues that the release of male and female hormones does have an impact on the nascent brain - and thus on human nature.

Although the brain copes with the natural death of 10,000 nerve cells every day, further loss can seriously damage the way it functions. The neurons are extremely sensitive to toxic substances and so the brain protects itself with a selective filtration system often known as the blood-brain barrier.

The effectiveness of this barrier is due to the relative impermeability of the blood vessels in the brain. But it does not provide total protection: poisons can still get through. The role of alcohol in killing off nerve cells and ultimately causing shrinkage of the brain (in cases of chronic alcoholism) is well known. The Mad Hatter was not just a figment of Lewis Carroll's imagination - hatmakers of the 18th and 19th

centuries suffered toxic psychosis as a result of daily exposure to mercury, which was used in the manufacture of felt.

Some scientists believe that poisoning in children results in behavioural abnormalities. Exposure to manganese can lead to a form of Parkinson's disease. Untreated diabetes, kidney failure and liver failure all result in the production of substances poisonous to the brain.

Parkinson's disease results from the loss of the neurotransmitter dopamine in the corpus striatum (a structure near the centre of the brain which moderates movement). Without the dopamine, the pathways along which messages and instructions are passed, are closed off.

Victims of the disease are now given L-dopa, a chemical precursor of dopamine which can pass through the blood-brain barrier. It is not known what causes the progressive loss of the naturally occurring dopamine. As so often happens in medicine, the treatment has been discovered in advance of the cause.

There is evidence that an imbalance of dopamine creates the symptoms of schizophrenia. The disorder is treated with substances which modify dopamine response. Although the causes and mechan-

isms of epilepsy are still not fully understood, drugs are available which inhibit the massive electrical discharges which give rise to epileptic fits.

The symptoms of multiple sclerosis and a number of other degenerative diseases involve the progressive destruction of myelin, a fatty substance which surrounds and insulates the long transmission fibres of nerve cells (axons). It is not known how to prevent the destruction of myelin, or how to replace it.

Scientists at the Institute of Neurology in London discovered that senile dementia (Alzheimer's disease) implicated another neurotransmitter, acetylcholine, which can be produced in the laboratory. However, no way has been found yet of targeting it to the brain.

But science has already conquered a number of infectious diseases of the brain, including general paresis, polio, meningitis, and certain forms of encephalitis.

As understanding of the more mysterious disorders grows, new treatments and ultimately methods of prevention are likely to be found, just as they were for polio.

More than any other organ in the body, the brain has developed defences for its own survival. Yet it is still vulnerable to attacks by

nature and by man himself, in infancy and adulthood. Studies of severely malnourished children have shown them to have smaller head circumferences and impaired mental performances in later life. This damage remains, even though the child, subsequently, receives an adequate diet. Such a blight now faces the children who have survived, but only just, the famine in Ethiopia.

As adults, we damage our brains with alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs. We know that boxing causes cerebral damage and other symptoms of illness, but it remains a legal sport.

"The mind of man is capable of anything, because everything is in it, all the past as well as all the future", wrote Joseph Conrad, in *Heart of Darkness*.

Anthony Smith, zoologist, broadcaster, and author of *The Mind*, published by Hodder and Stoughton last year, wrote in his postscript: "The brain of modern man, whatever its origins, is better than it need be, and rarely tapped for its true potential."

"The brain of future man will also, for quite a while, be ahead of its requirements. This fact will only change when some future generation learns how to use the instrument, to the full, to the best of its extraordinary abilities."

"Liver, spleen, heart and guts are all intriguing, but cannot hold a candle to the brain. It is the most important thing on Earth, for good or ill."

BODY SURVIVAL

- Medical science is continuing to make tremendous advances in the treatment of brain disease and damage. Brilliant surgical techniques and the most sophisticated methods and equipment daily save and restore life.
- The scanner and the scalpel are essential aids in evaluating and treating diseases of the brain tissue. However, the efficient working of the brain - its mental processes - can be safeguarded and even improved by our own comparatively simple actions and attitudes.
- The brain benefits from fresh air and healthy exercise, just like the rest of the body. Similarly, it suffers from poisons, pollution and under-utilization. Like all of us, it needs good food and proper rest in adequate amounts.
- Give your brain a holiday. Take it away from everyday pressures and stress, from the potentially damaging effects of alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. Consider whether it would benefit from modifications to your diet. Does it get enough sleep, or perhaps too much? Is it already overworked - or could it benefit from just a little more exertion?

million prescriptions in 1981; the equivalent of 30 pills or tablets for every man, woman and child in the country. Yet many of the mysteries of the brain's chemistry remain unsolved, and many forms of neurosis are difficult to define.

Stress, anxiety and depression are the most common terms for the danger signals the brain emits when it comes under heavy burdens of pressure.

"Stress is like an electrical load on the circuit", says Harley Street specialist Dr Malcolm Carruthers. "Some of us are on three amp fuses, some on 13 or even 30 amps. Our tolerance is partly hereditary, and partly determined by how we train ourselves."

Twice as many women as men are prescribed tranquilizers for depression and anxiety. Most at risk are middle-aged housewives. Marital or domestic problems are the main causes of their troubled minds.

Worry and stress account for 77 per cent of all mental disorders, according to a MORI survey last year. More serious conditions such as schizophrenia, paranoia, melancholia and mental confusion may have a wide range of causes, some little understood, including congenital and environmental factors.

Such conditions require expert medical attention and treatment, and research continues into the production of anti-psychotic and other drugs. But the great majority of people who suffer less serious mental disorders can do much to help themselves.

Mr Ron Lacey, assistant director of campaigns at MIND, the National Association for Mental Health, says: "The prescribing of tranquilizers is going down and it is now recognized that they have limited uses and are highly addictive. We want to see a substantial reduction in such prescriptions."

"We believe in social solutions, rather than medical ones. There is a real need for people to take their own health, including their mental health, more seriously. We have become too dependent on doctors and medicines."

Seeking advice from professional advisers, counsellors, voluntary organizations and others who are prepared to listen to and discuss problems may be a useful support to a busy general practitioner already overburdened with the cares of thousands of patients. Examining the way we live may offer more enduring and less hazardous solutions than a bottle of tranquilizers.

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

- That psychiatric patients never get better. They do. Well over 90 per cent of all endogenous depressives respond to treatment and don't need a maintenance dose of antidepressants. Eighty per cent of phobic patients recover. Fifty per cent of alcoholics are dry a year after treatment. This three per cent of schizophrenic patients return to a normal social life after treatment, only 15 per cent of schizophrenic patients run a steady downhill course.
- That patients who talk about suicide won't commit suicide. Quite wrong. Nearly all patients who commit suicide tell somebody, often many people more than once.
- That tranquilizers retain their power. Minor tranquilizers are only useful for up to three or four months.
- That schizophrenic patients have a jolly and likeable character, they don't. This personality is much more characteristic of the chronic alcoholic or the psychopath. The term split mind applied to a schizophrenic was meant to refer to the split which occurs between his thoughts and expression and it has been misused ever since.
- That all schizophrenics are dangerous. They are not. Most are shy, retiring and frightened rather than aggressive. Only a few paranoid patients are violent. Relatives of schizophrenics find inertia more trouble than paranoia.
- That treated epileptics are a menace on the road. They are not. The driving record of epileptics who are allowed to drive following successful treatment is much better than that of the population at large.
- That you cannot become an alcoholic if you only drink beer or if you never drink spirits. There is no truth in this whatsoever.
- That beer and wine are nourishing foods. They are not. They provide "empty calories".
- That you have to be physically dependent on alcohol to have an alcohol problem. You don't; problems associated with over-indulgence of alcohol can take many forms and both physical and mental deterioration can follow intermittent drinking.
- That all heavy drinkers will get cirrhosis. They won't. Only one in ten develops cirrhosis although 50 per cent of all alcoholics will suffer from cerebral atrophy (brain shrinkage) and an even higher proportion from mental symptoms.

MIND HEALTH

Britain is a neurotic nation, swallowing hundreds of millions of tranquilizers every year to keep depression and anxiety at bay. But a healthy mind, like a healthy body, cannot be prescribed. The most effective treatment often will be that which we apply to ourselves.

Neuroses is the general term applied to conditions of mental or emotional disturbance not caused by a specific mental disease. It is the leading category of diagnosis by family doctors in Britain, with 355 patients per 1,000 thus described, each year.

Doctors prescribed 1,834,080,700 tranquilizers in just under 29

TOMORROW

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Gricers (n): Strange old buffers with one-track minds

Last year, when The Times was a mere 199 years old, I was wondering out loud in this column about the derivation of the word "gricer". A gricer is a railway fanatic who collects train numbers and spots their activities, but it is such an odd word, without any obvious lineage, that I couldn't help feeling curious about its birth. In such a situation most journalists would do some research, but I always prefer to leave it to the readers; the most knowledgeable journalist is never as wise as the most knowledgeable reader.

And so it proved. I was deluged with theories about the origin of the word. It came from a street called Grice Street; it came from a Mr A. Grice, who had a van near a big station; it came from an archaic word "grice", meaning an animal's young, usually the young of swine; it was connected to an old public school slang term "to groise", meaning to work unnecessarily hard and curry favour, and so on.

The last two theories occur in a 1979 number of *Branch Line News*, kindly sent to me by Mr Turner of East Grinstead, who says in his letter that he first heard the word "during the 1950s when I was participating in a trolleybus tour of parts of the Bournemouth Corporation system; several persons were becoming exceedingly excited while various junctions were negotiated and I heard it said that 'that constituted some real gricing!'. No further comment."

But the theory which most people mentioned was one printed in a letter in the June 1970 edition of *Railway World*, a copy of which was sent to me by Mr Gibbons of Leighton Buzzard. The letter, signed by a Colonel Soupspoon, dates the origin of gricer back to August 1938 when a trio of Mancunian rail enthusiasts were tramping the moors looking for old lead mines and their derelict tracks. They encountered instead numerous signs of grouse-shooting and it occurred to them that railway fanatics were very like grouse shooters: both would journey to the strangest places, under the most uncomfortable conditions, in pursuit of their quarry. Both, that is, are gricers.

No proof is offered for this strange theory, but everyone apparently accepts it, no doubt because it is the most colourful. Fair enough. But what interest me is the pejorative overtone the word seems to have acquired over the years. From being simply a collector of railway information, a gricer has become something of a figure of fun, if only for his unvarying accoutrements. A gricer can be recognized, it appears, from his long shabby mac,

moreover... Miles Kington

and give up their time to work unpaid in dirty conditions, they tend to fight shy. Gricers know everything, but do nothing."

I think Mr Abbey points the way here to a wider use of the word gricer. There are many fields, surely, inhabited by people who know everything but take no part. I think of the opera-lover who knows every cast change in *Aida* since 1870, but cannot sing a note; the wine buff who knows every vineyard within ten miles of Margaux, but has never trod a grape; the pedant who knows every obscure rule of grammar without being able to turn a graceful sentence, or the historian of popular songs who can quote the words of every verse but doesn't know what key any of them was written in. There has not been, until now, a word to fit them. Could gricer be that word?

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 544)

ACROSS

- Surface layer (6)
- Occurrence (4)
- Exclusive (5)
- Relief flier (7)
- Apostate (6)
- Information (4)
- Knotted whip (3,1,4,3)
- Curious (4)
- Unmarried woman (3)
- Prohibition (7)
- Bind (5)
- Mountain (4)
- Corrigenda (6)

DOWN

- Forerunner (5)
- Frozen water (3)
- Liable to misfortune (6,5)
- Manage (6)
- Study outlines (7)
- Decline in value (10)
- Break law (10)
- Used up (6)
- Consideration (4)
- Unrest (7)
- Tease (5)
- Rugged rock (4)
- Eur. lorry tag (1,1,1)

SOLUTION TO No 543

ACROSS: 1 Flap 4 Beguile 5 Azimov 9 Trundle 10 Pamphlet 11 Grin 13 Frankfurter 17 Arid 18 Enticible 21 Premise 22 Laurus 23 Whiff

DOWN: 1 Frappe 2 Idiom 3 Cynthians 4 Butterfingers 5 Gasp 6 Indorse 7 Bazaar 12 True Blue 14 Rajmatal 15 Pappaw 16 Smeed 19 Blurt 20 Fine

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FANTASTIC SALES
START ON SATURDAY
13 JANUARY

FASHION by Suzy Menkes



Above: Patricia Roberts's stained glass window of textures in mohair and silk, mixing cobalt blue, orange, purple, jade and lemon yellow. Sweater kit £57.20, including knitting book and p & p from Patricia Roberts, 60 Kinnerton Street, London SW1. Ready knitted sweater £195 from Patricia Roberts, 31 James Street, Covent Garden WC2. Black rubber and royal blue cotton jersey skirt £28 from Land & Burr, 35 Neal Street WC2. Perspex chain link necklace by Pellini from Liberty, Harvey Nichols, Harrods; Hoopers of Torquay.

Right: Geometric blocks of pale colour for Lister-Lee hand-knit pattern 2125 in mohair cotton blend. Yarn: Tahiti cotton £1.25 per 50gm ball. Average cost £28.25 from Dickens and Jones; Harrods; Selfridge; House of Fraser stores nationwide and other Lister-Lee stockists. Wet-suit fabric for a straight skirt £68 from Michiko Koshino, 7 Dering Street W1. Painted perspex necklace £19.95 and earrings £7.95 by Marlene McKibbin from Harvey Nichols.



Hair by Sally at Simon Rattian, 54 Crawford Street W1. Make-up by Debbie Bunn using Mary Quant's Cut of this World with Shades of Sky eyeshadow and Fuchsia Shock lips. Fashion assistant: Christine Pinnell. Photographs by MIKE OWEN

Yarns that stretch the imagination

The latest toy for knitters is a great big bouncy latex rubber ball. Rubber thread is the newest in a series of flamboyant yarns that are capturing the young market and rocketing knitting from Granny's fireside to the high tech age.

Pluffy feathers, shiny viscose and rainbows of ribbons have all given a new dimension to sturdy hand-knits. Stitchcraft used to be the only way to give surface interest to your winter woolly. Now the yarns themselves, and especially the new generation of tactile cottons, give relief and texture.

Hand-knitting can still be a complex craft as the needles create a furrowed field of cables or a magic carpet of Fair Isle. But increasingly the energy and effort is put in by the yarn producers who are offering hand-knitters a basketful of options. The most exciting of the yarns are produced by the French company Laines Anny Blatt, who launch this week their Boule de Gomme, a stretchy latex yarn which gives a futuristic look and texture.

The same company has given us fur and feather, both knitted in as yarn, glamorous in effect and displayed in pattern books that are the haute couture of knitting and prove just how far the craft has come from its humble peasant roots.

Ribbon was the first new material to challenge the supremacy of wool and the cotton and linen yarns which are given increasing prominence in the new knitting patterns for spring. Ribbon is now available from several suppliers, colour matched to the range of yarns and knitted together in the patterns to give the desirable textural effect.

Offray ribbons, the trimming specialists, are so convinced about this fashion development that they are launching their own range of Knitting Ribbon next month, made in polyester and especially designed to use for hand-knitting and crochet, both for garments and for accessories such as lace yokes, sleeves and collars. It comes in seven millimetre width in 100-metre reels in 15 colours and will be on sale by March 1 at £8.99 a reel.

I first realized that any long continuous thread - from telephone wire to a washing line - could be knitted, when I selected work for an exhibition at the British Crafts Centre. Just as designer knitters once challenged traditional shapes and colours of hand-knits, so they are now experimenting with yarn that makes your new spring sweater look like a rag rug or a Brillo pad.

The more established designers are mixing yarns, making unexpected juxtapositions of texture, like Patricia Roberts's patchwork of featherlight mohair and pure silk or a lattice work of mohair with Shetland fleck wool, both from her knitting book No 9.

Ancient Eastern textiles are the source of Christian de Falbe's Ramee and China grass, both speciality hand-knitting

yarns which are similar to hemp, jute and flax. De Falbe's studio yarns and designer patterns are available from Liberty's new hand-knitting department.

The knitting designers who moved into the yarn market out of frustration with the big mills are in the vanguard of change. Sandy Black's bobbly cotton fizz is an example of a yarn which captures the current fashion trend.

But whereas the mills were slow to appreciate the booming demand for imaginative hand-knit patterns, they have responded much more quickly to the changes in yarn. Patons and Baldwins who, like *The Times*, celebrates its 200th anniversary in 1985, is planning a special fashion show in April to emphasize the exciting developments in hand-knitting.

An interesting blend of mohair and cotton and of a textured mohair with man-made are featured in Lister-Lee's range of new hand-knit yarns, along with a slub-textured "Bamboo" cotton.

Designer knitting packs are still the most practical way to buy the pricey yarns in precise quantities. Designer kits are available from Rowan Yarns, Green Lane Mill, Washpit, Holmfirth, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD7 1RW. A new catalogue including kit designs from Susan Duckworth and Kaffe Fassett is free (send large s.a.e.) from Ehrman, 21/23 Vicarage Gate, London W3.

New knitting shops are being cast on all over the country, including the department at Liberty in the heart of London's West End. Ries Woods of Holborn have a large Anny Blatt area on the lower ground floor to show off the creative yarn collection.

Although the natural yarns such as wool and cotton are by far the most important to the knitter, I see a movement back to the viscose and shiny rayons which last surface in the 1950s. Then the bright-as-paint machine-made knits were a reaction to war time make-do-and-mend. Now the earth mother's children are backing off from back-to-nature.

The image of Grace Kelly haunts the designers at the French yarn company Pingouin, which has produced a shiny viscose in 12 jewel colours at £3.20 per 50gm ball. They have also followed a theme of matt and shine, which comes out in a cotton torsade exactly colour-matched to a shiny polyester.

Just as the knitting yarns are changing radically, so has the fashionable way to wear a hand-knit. The homely image of woolly with tweed or cotton sweater and cotton skirt has been sharpened up. Fashion designers are making garments in high tech materials like the wet-suit rubber skirts on this page by Michiko Koshino and the ridged rubbers at Land & Burr or from Barbara de Vries. These space-age materials are also used for accessories including the essential rubber-soled boot.



Above centre: Rubber ball sweater knitted from Anny Blatt's boule de gomme latex, viscose, wool and nylon. Yarn cost £58.60, leaflet free, from Liberty's new knitting department, Regent Street W1. Ries Woods, 242-243 High Holborn WC1. Woolies, Gosforth; U-Duit, Ripley; Plumes, Swansea. Informabon from Laines Anny Blatt, (UK) Ltd, Bull Bridge, Ambergate, Derby. Wet suit fabric stirrup pants £78 from Michiko Koshino, 7 Dering Street W1. Modern art perspex brooch and bangle by Pellini from Harrods; Harvey Nichols; Liberty; Hoopers of Torquay.

Above: Dramatic evening sweater with feathers by Anny Blatt in angora, Ecosse cotton, pure silk and plume, total yarn cost £121; Anny Blatt pattern book number 59 £2.00. All from Ries Woods, 242-243 High Holborn WC2 plus mail order. Ridged rubber skirt by Barbara de Vries £40.25 from Liberty, Regent Street, Fenwick, New Bond Street, Chic, Canterbury. Urban Renewal, Brighton. Leaf neckties £14.95, earrings £8.95, by Marlene McKibbin from Harvey Nichols.

Left: Boldly patterned geometric Fair Isle sweater with feathers by Anny Blatt in angora, Ecosse cotton, pure silk and plume, total yarn cost £121; Anny Blatt pattern book number 59 £2.00. All from Ries Woods, 242-243 High Holborn WC2 plus mail order. Ridged rubber skirt by Barbara de Vries £40.25 from Liberty, Regent Street, Fenwick, New Bond Street, Chic, Canterbury. Urban Renewal, Brighton. Leaf neckties £14.95, earrings £8.95, by Marlene McKibbin from Harvey Nichols.

Joseph
6 Sloane Street
Azzedine Alaïa
Claude Montana
J P Gaultier
Katharine Hamnett
Cerruti
and many other
designer names

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SW3
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30% 40% & 50%

JOSEPH
TRICOT
18 Sloane Street
16 South Molton St
Collection of knitwear
reduced by
30% & 40%

CHINESE
LAUNDRY
13 & 14 5th Molton St
53 Kings Rd, SW3
Katharine Hamnett
Body Map
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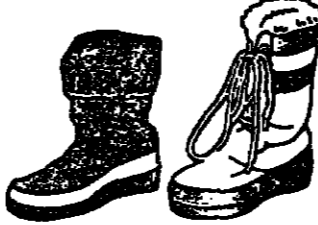


The design measures 14" x 14" and is worked in simple half-cross stitch. It is printed in the full ten colours: Coral, sand, pastel pink, pale blue, navy, dove grey, pale lime, peacock green, a light mauve, oyster and white. The canvas, 18 holes to the inch, is easy on the eyes. The kit comes complete with all the required yarns from the Appleton Tapestry range. Needle and instructions. All for £16.50 including postage and packing. Use FREEPOST - No stamp needed.

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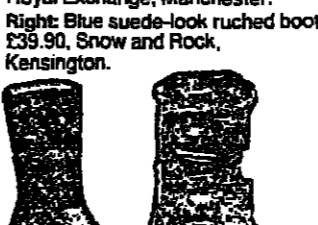
STURDY, WARM AND WATER-PROOF TO BEAT THE BIG FREEZE



Left: Cire gaiter boot, fur-lined in grey and black, £27.95 by Nordica from Lilywhites, Piccadilly



Right: Blue suede look rucked boot £39.90, Snow and Rock, Kensington.



Left: Ribbed rubber boot (unlined) £12.99 by Melissa, Fenwick W1; Mackay Wilson, Edinburgh. Right: Men's padded leather look boot £39.90, Snow and Rock, 188 Kensington High Street W8 and Birmingham. Illustrations by MICHAEL DAVIDSON. Report: CHRISTINE PAINELL.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Gaddafi plan torpedoed

Did Colonel Gaddafi once try to sink the QE2? This was one of the more incredible stories of the early 1970s...

Shrewd move

My note that Michael Heseltine was known simply as "God" at Oxford has brought a wry smile to many faces...

The Queen is to abdicate and Margaret Thatcher will take her place according to the Mirror City News...

Bad judgement

When Clive Ponting's solicitors appointed the relatively unknown Bruce Laughtland QC to defend their client...

Not their field

Whichever intelligence seems to be as sharp as ever. Following his articles on the Falklands in The Times...



After the Pershing catastrophe, Neville's convinced this is the nuclear winter

Blow by blow

Poor Peter Tatchell. Spectacularly defeated in the previously safe Labour seat of Bermondsey...

Hard seat

Ken Livingstone could be severely embarrassed if he seeks Brent East Labour Party's nomination...

Jobs promise that would pay

As the Commons prepares again to debate unemployment, Richard Layard and Richard O'Brien point to a remedy for those left without work over the long term

We now have one and quarter million people who have been out of work for more than a year...

Such unemployment is wasteful and costly. It is deeply demoralizing for the great majority of the unemployed...

This helps to explain why, despite the high levels of unemployment now prevailing in Europe...

total increase is accounted for by those unemployed for more than six months. Re-employing the long-term unemployed would do little to rekindle inflation.

Such re-employment must therefore be a priority for the Government. For long-term unemployment...

The cost need not be large. Expanding the Community Programme from 130,000 places to about half a million would incur a net extra cost of the Exchequer of about £3bn to £4bn...

creating jobs, as a similar sum spent on general tax cuts would, according to the Treasury model...

The increase in places would offer a real administrative challenge, but similar challenge was met when the Youth Training Scheme found more than 450,000 places within a year.

The key issues are how much people get paid, and what they produce. At present CP pays the standard hourly rate for the job...

The other question concerns the type of work offered. At present the programme is decentralized and depends on sponsors.

Phillip Whitehead

Ways to foster a growing need

The most powerful human urge is that to raise a child, the greatest of which, when the boy is abandoned. The present arguments over surrogate motherhood for gain...

The Belgian case was concluded by surrogacy, but within a loving family and not for gain. The sacrifices involved on all sides...

In this tenth year of the 1975 Children Act, need it be so? In spite of the Act, which was intended by those of us who sponsored it to open up adoption and fostering...

A quarter of all adoptions are now of children rather than infants, and they include an increased proportion of the mentally and physically handicapped.

Ten years on, some of the modest financial provisions of the Act are still not implemented. There are two areas, both controversial...

The old ideas and proposals are still in the air. The author is a North, 1970-83

Hazhir Teimourian on the growing threat of a fresh famine

Omens of hunger across the Afghan trenches



Mohammad Eshaq: is hunger a military tactic?

It is not only sub-Saharan Africa which is suffering from famine. At least half a million people in Afghanistan are threatened this winter...

According to a message received by broadcaster Sandy Gall from Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud of the Panjshir Valley...

The Panjshir was not the only region whose economy was largely disrupted by recent fighting.

"It is really quite easy for the Russians to disrupt the process of production," said Mohammad Eshaq...

In addition to the 4.7 million Afghans who have fled to Pakistan and Iran, there are an estimated 5-6 million others who have sought refuge in the guerrilla-controlled areas...

Professor Zalmay Khalilzai of Columbia University in New York felt heartened by the recent decision of distribution system.

from want of food it will be, by definition, too late," said Dr D'Suza. "and the cost of even a token rescue in a country such as Afghanistan...

According to Miss Fullerton governments are only organizations with the resources to bring about change.

It is impossible to send significant amounts of food over the Pakistani border in the provinces of Baluchistan and North-West Frontier.

Sandy Gall points out that the convoys could be bombed, and Mr Eshaq believes that hiring a jeep to take a few sacks of grain for about 150 miles from Quetta to Kandahar could cost \$1,000.

A famine could also affect the outcome of the war. The Kabul government and its Soviet allies are suspected of trying to starve people still in the rural areas...

Reports from Kabul speak of the possibility of additional Soviet army divisions arriving in Afghanistan from February onwards.

The effect was counterproductive. Sharp questions were asked here about the nature of this theoretical "German state".

In April the plaintiffs took their case to London, where they tried suing the Ministry of Defence. Leave was refused by the High Court...

The implication of a successful suit against the latter was clearly alarming to Britain and the other two allies.

Of course, the SIXES were years of strange behaviour. In which symbols of authority were arbitrarily cast down.

It is true that the CIA has been accused of dreadful things, even of assassinations, and this must inevitably affect our attitude.

It is not surprising that the CIA is now utterly unimpaired, refusing to engage even its most honourable occupation - the support of these publications and institutions which tell the truth about the modern world.

Paris and Washington - and of course Moscow - will be watching closely to see whether the whole base their power will be cracked or merely jolted.

Michael Binyon looks at the court case which is worrying the western powers

Armour that weighs on Berlin's mind

Berlin AS West Germany braces itself for the painful anniversary of the Nazi capitulation, the three victorious western allies are facing an unprecedented challenge to their authority in Berlin...

The British, French and American protecting powers, as the former conquerors are now officially called, have been watching with concern an attempt by two West Berliners to sue the military authorities.

At the same time a growing resentment by many young West Berliners against the unselected and unrepresentative nature of the city's supreme rulers and the vast body of edicts, many now obsolete...

Occasionally West Berlin courts are obliged to invoke long-forgotten statutes that appear as ridiculous to the judges as they do to the defendants - as, for example, in the case last month when two environmentalists who flew a protest balloon across the wall to East Berlin



Symbols of rebellion in West Berlin

were charged with importing a "weapon of war" into the city.

The West Berlin senate has been under pressure to negotiate changes with the allies. The city government, while recognizing the importance of keeping the 15,000 western troops in Berlin as a visible symbol of allied commitment...

Mayor Eberhard Diepgen has found full understanding in talks with Mrs Thatcher and other western leaders for the need to discard obsolete edicts.

allied property, were officially dropped.

But the attempt by two residents of Gatow, a suburb in the west of the city, to confront the allies head-on in court has found less official understanding...

Britain disputes the figures, pointing to the 25ft walls that will go up. But it was the British military authorities' intervention fortifying a West Berlin court to hear the

Roger Scruton

How London gold helps Moscow

During hard times our grandparents would be visited by non-conformist clergy offering soup and prayer. Ought they to have refused the soup, because of the prayer that had to be swallowed along with it?

During the 1960s, a period of severe cultural depression, the CIA would offer relief to those who because they spoke out against the prevailing nonsense were threatened with extinction.

The ethics of financial connection are complex. Consider the British Youth Council, which provides a forum for youth activities, and representation at international gatherings.

Some might say that, because the BYC receives money from the Foreign Office, it must be a government agency and therefore an illegitimate force.

This process of "moral inversion" (as the philosopher Polanyi called it) has the strange result that in the minds of people not otherwise disposed to madness, the legitimate protection of one's interests seems like an unpardonable crime.

The author is editor of The Salisbury Review





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A QUESTION OF CONFIDENCE

The Government is wholly to blame for the sterling crisis of this weekend and, within the Government, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor must take the lion's share. The foundation stone of a strong currency - any currency - is confidence. It is a basic, but confidence in this Government which is lacking and has been lacking fundamentally since the 1983 election and in particular since last year's budget.

Since that budget the Government has given no real assurance that it intends to continue with the conquest of inflation and the recovery of the currency. It has settled for a level of inflation of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent. That is double the rate which obtains in West Germany and Japan, and greater than that in the United States in spite of that country's boom. Not surprisingly, in a crisis, the Government's tentative approach to inflation has created uncertainty in the markets which, as would any prudent saver or investor, that a 5 per cent rate of inflation will halve your money in 14 years. Is that the kind of uncertainty which the Government thinks can be ignored, or treated in a matter-of-fact way by the Chancellor and Prime Minister? They more often take the opportunity of referring to the Government's "successful" policy of counter-inflation, than in warning us all that we have to bend further to the wheel before Britain can claim to have a sound money policy which justifies faith in the economy.

No matter how many technical factors can be brought into the argument, concerning minimum lending rate, North Sea oil prices, domestic monetary control, the artificial price of the dollar, public sector borrowing and so on, they cannot conceal the fact that a 5 per cent rate of inflation is not sound money. Technical references to the domestic monetary aggregates being under control do not conceal this weakness from the market, even if ministers may

hope it can be obscured from the public.

Why is this underlying confidence lacking? It is lacking for two basic reasons, one which concerns the Prime Minister, the other the Chancellor. The Prime Minister is responsible for the general strategic posture of this Government which, since 1983, has not had the clarity of purpose which distinguished her first administration.

The hallmark of this Government is to consolidate gains achieved in the first administration but not to press on with quite the same determination. Thus public spending is to be maintained at a constant level which means that it will only be proportionately reduced if the economy continues to grow. Thus the burden of overall taxation will remain nearly as high as it was when the Conservatives took power in 1979 - hardly a spectacular achievement after eight years in office. Thus the structure of the economy, with its massive subsidies and a mixture of individual enterprise and collectivist dead-weight which is bound to favour the collectivist element unless that is actively reduced, will remain largely unchanged. Hence the restrictive practices which burden the economy and which, in spite of the sustained if modest growth which we have experienced for the past four years, reveal themselves in the persistently high level of unemployment.

The Prime Minister is thus to blame for creating a strategic climate for this Government in which too much is expected of tax reductions and too little demanded of the opportunity, which will not recur, to break down the rigidities in British economic life - in wages, councils, in rent controls, in public sector monopoly, in private sector subsidy. The Government is left to claim that it is able to manage the mixed economy it inherited better than its predecessors. That condemns it to a defensiveness which makes it especially vulnerable to the

market reactions of this weekend.

The Chancellor, having taken his cue from the Prime Minister, is to blame because he clearly thinks that the arguments in favour of his policies are so obvious that he does not have to explain them to the laity. He has to meet every incoherent uncertainty with ample explanations, and Mr Lawson is not good at explaining himself. If he felt he had so little to say as he appeared to say yesterday on the BBC, he should not have turned up at all. In the Commons he paid lip-service to the fight against inflation and recognized that the Government's resolve was in question. He went on to hope that yesterday's events would serve as a demonstration that ministers would not be seduced by siren voices hoping for some kind of easement in the counter-inflation policy to create jobs funded by the taxpayer.

We all know these arcane arguments are being conducted within the Government in the context of the forthcoming budget. Now that ministers have been taught how uncertain the world is about this Government's ability to achieve more than it has achieved in its economic management, perhaps they will together recognize the need to spell out the assumptions of Government policy more fully and frequently.

The chart published in this paper yesterday showed how the value of the pound had declined steadily since 1981. That decline tells the story of the British disease more effectively than any speech. Much may have been achieved in reducing inflation and achieving some gains in productivity but much more needs to be done. In West Germany commentators have stumbled on that country's third economic miracle, while in contrast the pound is battered over a weekend because ministers have failed to give clear signals to a jittery market. It is at heart a question of confidence.

WHITHER THE BBC: II

In the foreword to the BBC's 1985 Annual Report its Chairman, Mr Stuart Young, argued that the "need for a decision about the pattern of broadcasting in the future is insistent and dominant". He is right. Since the days of the crystal set, broadcasting has come to play an increasingly diverse part in national life. It is now a substitute for very many different types of human activity. It provides aural and visual wallpaper in the form of light music and quiz shows. It provides films and sport for those who are also happy to pay for films at the cinema and for sport at the turnstiles. It provides education, complementary to that given in schools and universities, and news and current affairs, in partial competition to newspapers.

As broadcasting becomes broader and deeper in its reach so, the BBC believes, the call on the public purse should be equally broadened and deepened. More purses, higher fees. But even if all of the broadcasters' diverse products can be considered desirable, for the individuals who watch them and for the wider good of the nation as a whole, it does not follow that all of them need to be financed from public funds.

Advertisers can clearly play some part - in many cases a more than adequate part - in generating the revenue to pay for many programmes. Equally well other programmes may be considered to have a high public benefit in addition to their private attractions, and because, for example, more people benefit from the existence of a well-informed electorate than will necessarily watch the news and current affairs programmes, it can be argued that the audience figures will not generate as much revenue as the public good demands.

We need more open discussions about the use of public funds. In a rational allocation of licence revenue news and current affairs would probably be considered among the front runners for a share. Sport and feature films may also perhaps be considered to create some public good beyond mere private gratification. It has been argued, for example, that general benefits accrue from the shared national experience of many people watching the same images on the screen at the same time.

Some analysts would place religious programmes in the same category as news, arguing that your neighbours are less likely to wake you up at night or throw bricks at your windows if they occasionally watch "Songs

of Praise". Others argue religious programmes' case for public money on the grounds of national shared experience. Some even argue a similar case for "Life on Earth" or "The Barchester Chronicles".

The debates about what exactly would have a call on the public purse might be arduous. But acceptance of the principle that licence payers should provide finance last (and preferably not at all) to those programmes which the advertising market would be most likely to generate by itself would be a major step forward.

The BBC prefers to keep up its insistence that its public service lies in the whole of its output, not merely in certain parts. In the final analysis its case for the all embracing "seamless robe" is reduced to the simple unproven assertion that, without it, programme quality will fall. The economic notion of non-excludable public goods is brought into play. This suggests that, without a licence fee, it is hard to exclude non-payers from enjoying the benefits of broadcasting. Therefore the total investment in broadcasting will be less than the total needs of the audience would dictate: therefore we will get worse chat shows and may get no Shakespeare.

The effects will be still worse, it is said, because of the debasing effect of advertising itself (as if BBC programmes did not already contain much "in-house" advertising already). Because the advertiser cares little whether the audience is watching intently or is half asleep television that is supported by advertising tends towards the lowest common denominator. Advertising would drag down "the best television service in the world" to American levels.

Whatever the force of these arguments, one thing is common to all of them: they are not of the type into which the Government need be shy of intervening. Programme quality is not a primary political issue - and as much nonsense is talked about it as about most things which politicians are paid to judge.

The Government might consider critically the question of whether British television really is better than that of the Americans and the rest of the world. It would find that much is wrong with American television but that it does produce many fine programmes at no public expense. British companies tend to buy American television programmes from the bottom of the US market while American companies tend to buy only the best programmes made in Bri-

tain. As Sir Huw Wheldon, a former Managing Director of BBC Television, reported to the Annan Committee, the British and American creative traditions are very different - the one based on the Hollywood stereotype, the other on the individual creative impulse. The BBC and its independent competitors have set a standard within the British tradition. What reason is there to be certain that finance by advertising will overthrow this?

And who sets the quality standards? The answer is very largely the broadcasters themselves. The professionals give each other awards at international festivals. The steady drumbeat of propaganda is kept up by BBC and ITV to reinforce a legend, a campaign that is plainly very successful. The Government should consider the extent to which one interested group - the broadcasters themselves - have pre-empted so much of the discussion on a matter of public policy.

If it decides that Britain really can justify its claim to the best quality television in the world it should look at the cost of that quality and whether consumers really want to pay it. It is always remarkable how many of those influential people who praise Britain's quality television are happy and proud to say that they themselves never watch television at all. Television is probably best at providing relaxation, undemanding entertainment and information that needs illustration with pictures. It can also provide front stalls at the opera and the cinema. Of course, viewers appreciate free films, free plays and free documentaries as long as they think they really are free. But they do not come without a price - and the heavy tax to pay for them will gradually be seen for what it is. Suppose it were proposed that all the conklike boxes have printed upon them the works of Shakespeare. Would that mean we had the highest quality conklike boxes in the world, or would it mean that we were rather foolish?

We need a more open - less monolithic - system of broadcasting in which customers can choose what qualities they want from their television screens and radio sets. And the BBC's response to economic pressure should not be to threaten cuts in its prime public functions of news and current affairs but to look to entertainment areas where the standards are of its own making - and can be remade, by others outside the BBC, if the money is not there for the corporation.

Progress towards peace in Ulster

From Brigadier W. M. T. Magan
Sir, Lord Lytton (January 8) writes of the Northern Ireland problem: "Without total recognition of permanent partition... between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland - there will be no progress of note."

This is a counsel of despair, and does not accord with the facts of today, or with the probabilities of the future. Society does not stand still. People and nations are not frozen for all time into immutable attitudes, and certainly should not be thus deliberately frozen.

In 1984 there were at least two instances of "progress of note". In March, for the first time ever, an IRA terrorist was extradited from the Republic and handed over to the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Six weeks later the New Irish Forum, which had been convened in Dublin a year earlier, issued its report. Everyone who has studied the Irish question knew that neither the Forum, nor anyone else, could devise an immediately acceptable overall constitutional solution to the problem of Ireland; but the Forum report nevertheless contained basic considerations far in advance of the generality of nationalist sentiment during the past 60 years; and positive response from moderate northern Unionist opinion has not been negligible. The Forum produced something on which to build.

War-torn Europe of 40 years ago has thrown up the EEC, Nato, the European Parliament and other international institutions. Is it too much to hope that another 40 years might likewise see institutional and constitutional arrangements between Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and mainland Britain that will be much closer and more fruitful than those that we have today?

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. M. T. MAGAN,
St Michael's House,
Peckham Bush,
Tonbridge,
Kent,
January 9.

National Book League

From Mr Michael Turner
Sir, Mr E. J. Craddock's article (December 31) about the National Book League was unhelpful and misleading. It was unhelpful because it insufficiently stressed the National Book League's *raison d'être* as an independent, non-commercial body dedicated to the furtherance of reading, sponsored by some 50 organizations that range from the Royal Society of Literature to the Centre for Multiracial Education.

It was misleading in its tasteless combination of fulsome praise for the director, Mr Martin Goff, with the illogical and unsubstantiated slur that his style is now outmoded. Mr Craddock, to take only one example, has overlooked the significance of Mr Goff's administration of the Booker Prize as a brilliant example of how to promote the cause of books in the 1980s.

The National Book League is not a creature of publishers, although they do contribute a large proportion of its income, and it should never become such. The book trade needs a Book Marketing Council to promote the sale of books, yes - and I write as a former chairman of that organisation - but the general public needs a strong non-partisan force such as the National Book League to speak for readers and reading.

Had your correspondent been more in touch with recent events he would have known that the National Book League's executive, led by its new chairman, Mr Frank Delaney, is currently at work on a reappraisal of the league's function and activities. Mr Craddock's recent disjointed whining places in considerable doubt any authority to which he may presume to comment on publishing and books.

Yours faithfully,
M. TURNER
Group Managing Director,
Associated Book Publishers plc,
11 New Fetter Lane, EC4,
January 2.

Prescription of drugs

From the President of the Royal College of Physicians
Sir, Your report of the meeting of the Standing Medical Advisory Committee (January 10) may have implied that there was unanimous opposition to the Government's proposals to introduce a limited drug list. The position of the Royal College of Physicians of London remains clear.

We are critical of the mode of presentation and many of the details of the Government's list, but we support the general principle of limited prescribing, subject to several important safeguards:

1. The quality of the drugs on the list must be assured.
2. Drugs should be available to meet the full range of desired therapeutic activity.
3. An appeal mechanism should exist through which a non-listed product might be considered for inclusion.
4. There should be a regular review of the list.

I think that at least two other royal colleges also support the principle underlying the Government's proposals. The combined strength of this support represents a substantial proportion of the medical profession. Any suggestion that there is universal opposition to the Government is clearly misleading.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND HOFFENBERG,
President,
Royal College of Physicians,
11 St Andrews Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
January 11.

Need to spend more on housing stock

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects

Sir, Government cuts in construction spending, especially the recent savage and widely criticised cuts in housing, fly in the face not only of the Prime Minister's wish to make us a better housed nation, but also of common-sense economics. They are dictated by inflexible Treasury cash limits drawn up with obsessive and undifferentiated concern for the deficit rather than the content of public expenditure.

Meanwhile our housing stock, public buildings and infrastructure are undergoing accelerating degradation. This is well documented by official statistics; and a succession of bodies, most recently NEDO (National Economic Development Office), have calculated it will cost disproportionately more to put right the longer we delay.

Not only are these cuts poor value for money but they inhibit recovery by the private sector, which the Government is pledged to expand. Industry and commerce need an efficient infrastructure and home-owners will be severely affected by a further reduction in improvement grants.

More generally, construction offers one of the very few areas of potential growth for full-time male employment. This opportunity is being thrown away. Both Prime Minister and Chancellor have in recent speeches disparaged invest-

ment in construction and promoted the merits of tax cuts instead.

For example, the Prime Minister has recently suggested that capital investment carries a high cost per job and sucks in more imports than tax cuts. This is not supported by the evidence as far as construction is concerned.

Studies by Cambridge Econometrics and the Henley Centre for Forecasting have amongst other things demonstrated that public investment in construction is more efficient than tax cuts in providing jobs and creating real wealth.

The Prime Minister quoted £35,000-£55,000 as the cost per job of additional infrastructure spending; this is unrepresentative of most construction work, which is generally labour intensive. Equally her suggestion that the import content of extra capital investment is higher than for additional consumer spending from tax cuts is untrue for construction.

The Government must accept the evidence that spending on modernising and improving the nation's rapidly deteriorating buildings and infrastructure is not only necessary; it represents value for money and generates real jobs. Tax cuts and short-term employment subsidies certainly do nothing of the kind.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MANSER, President,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1.

Peace in the S. Atlantic

From Mr Cyril D. Townsend, MP for Buxley Heath (Conservative)

Sir, Public comments on the Falkland Islands over the Christmas period, from both the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic, have disappointed those in both countries who seek a sensible way out of the present depressing and disastrous deadlock. It appears all too easy to forget the guns stopped firing in the South Atlantic over two and a half years ago, and too hard to remember that Britain, the Argentine and the Falklands Islands are all suffering badly from the lack of any diplomatic or commercial links between the former combatants.

For our country there is the gross distortion of our defence policy and obvious diplomatic and commercial problems. Is it really wise to be spending £40 per taxpayer per year on some 350 families in the Falkland Islands, when we are having to cut our diplomatic representation abroad and reduce the funding of both the superb BBC external service and the British Council?

For the civilian government in the Argentine tension in the South Atlantic increases both the cost and the importance of the military and makes it harder to tackle their huge international debts.

For the Falkland Islanders the two most pressing problems are the increasing international over-fishing of the seas around them and the expensive and time-consuming lifetime over 8,000 miles of ocean to the United Kingdom.

Surely the way forward lies in simultaneous unilateral declarations, without negotiations and without any strings? The Argentine could formally declare all hostilities terminated and Britain could remove the 150-mile protection zone. There is also a need for renewed contact at all levels.

Britain is not expected to make concessions which we would regard as being against our principles and interests.

Let us in 1985 pursue with vigour the normalisation of our relations with the Argentine. Let us, above all, have some vision of the prospects that could await us all in a peaceful South Atlantic.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND,
House of Commons,
January 1.

Where railways score

From Dr Francis Blacklay

Sir, In the argument about the axle weight of heavy lorries, two false assumptions are made: firstly, that the wheels run on the surface of the road and, secondly, that the road surface is smooth.

In this attractive market town passing lorries frequently have at least one wheel on the pavement and, secondly, scarcely a month goes by without an excavation in the road being an irregular patch. No matter the axle weight, three axles give rise to six axles instead of four and it is the axles and not the axle weight that do the damage to our historic houses and other buildings.

The railways manage things better, for their wheels have flanges to keep them on the track and the magisterial bench drivers Tom, Dick and Harry from interfering with the tracks' regularity and smoothness. They have other advantages for the passenger as well as for freight.

I well remember a morning several years ago when dense fog cloaked all England and I arrived at Euston fresh, well fed, my papers read and some business done of my own minute early, when several of my could-have-been fellow travellers were mangled corpses on the motorway.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS W. BLACKLAY,
116 Hospital Street,
Nantwich,
Cheshire,
December 31.

Church militant

From Captain J. G. McColl

Sir, In your Court & Social column of today (January 10) the Queen Mother is mentioned as Colonel-in-Chief, inter alia, the Royal Anglican Regiment.

Would one assume the regimental march of its regiment to be "Onward Christian Soldiers"?

Yours etc.
J. G. McCOLL,
The Life Guards,
Combermere Barracks,
Windsor, Berkshire,
January 10.

Sale of Wytch Farm

From Mr W. G. Jewers

Sir, It is misleading to state (report, January 8) that the proceeds of the sale of the Wytch Farm oil field went to "its former owners rather than into the Exchequer". The Government will receive the whole of the proceeds of the sale, in one way or another.

Confusion can be caused by the fact that, until liability to corporation tax is determined, the proceeds of the sale of British Gas's interest in the field stand to the British Gas Corporation's credit in a non-interest-bearing account lodged with the Treasury.

British Gas, representing 16 million gas customers, receive no benefit whatsoever.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. JEWERS, Managing Director,
Finance,
British Gas Corporation,
Rivermill Road,
152 Grosvenor Road, SW1,
January 11.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 15, 1985
The remains of Anne Mowbray were reinterred in Westminster Abbey on May 31, 1965. The Queen was represented at the ceremony which was conducted by the Dean of Westminster, and among those present were Lord and Lady Mowbray. It had been established that the Duchess of York had died a natural death; she now lies a few feet from her child husband Richard Duke of York.

STEPNEY COFFIN CONTAINS A DUCHESS OF YORK

A small lead coffin (found on a building site in Stepney on December 11, has been established by experts at the London Museum as almost certainly containing the remains of Anne Mowbray, Duchess of York. She was the child bride of Richard Duke of York, one of the princes believed to have been murdered in the Tower of London in 1483 or 1485.

Anne Mowbray (1472-1481) was married in great splendour in St Stephen's Chapel Westminster, when she was just over five years old, to Richard, second son of King Edward IV. Her bridegroom was 5½ at the time of the marriage.

This important and fascinating discovery has involved legal, scientific, historical, medical and ecclesiastical experts in prolonged investigations during the past months and it is expected that the programme of research will probably continue for another six months.

LATIN INSCRIPTION
The coffin has been opened, on the instruction of the coroner and with the approval of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. Medical experts have confirmed that the human remains inside are those of a child whose age would be consistent with the age of Anne Mowbray, who was eight years 11 months at the time of her death.

Announcing these results in an interim report yesterday, the London Museum said that it was only after careful laboratory treatment of a largely obscured leaden inscription attached to the coffin that the importance of the discovery was realised.

This inscription, translated from the Latin, read: "Here lies Anne, Duchess of York; daughter and heir of John, formerly Duke of Norfolk, Earl of March, Earl of Nottingham, Earl of Wiltshire, Marshal of England, and Lord of Eborac, Segreave and Gower; the late wife of Richard, Duke of York; the second most illustrious prince of Edward the Fourth, King of England, France and Lord of Ireland who died at Greenwich on the nineteenth day of November in the year of Our Lord 1481 and in the twenty-first year of the reign of the said Lord King."

One of the problems still to be unravelled is how and at what date the coffin arrived in Stepney, since Anne Mowbray was buried with great ceremony in Westminster Abbey, in the Chapel of St Erasmus. The coffin was found more than 100 feet below ground. The vault had chalk and brick walls and an arched roof largely of brick and it lay within the site of a medieval nunnery belonging to the Order of St. Clare.

This was known as the Abbey of the Minors or the Minorites which stood just outside the city wall and close to the Tower of London. The building site was near St. Clare Street...

70 SPECIALISTS

Inside the coffin were found the skull covered with matted hair, probably more than that on the chest, coat of bones, and the lower part of the coffin containing light brown silk through which protruded bones. The remains of a wrapping lay in fragments over parts of the body and the microscope has shown the threads to be linen.

A list of 70 specialists was compiled and the examination began with each piece of soil recorded geographically and preserved in a jar. Under a 20-power dissecting microscope every fragment was examined and seeds, insect cases, finger nails and head hairs were found near the foot. Questions for the specialists had to be carefully and quickly formulated because of the danger of the finds deteriorating.

The bones are to be examined by radiologists, anatomists, osteologists and dentists and the medical history ascertained so far as possible, although it is expected that little will be discovered of this.

Today, January 15, is the anniversary of the marriage of the children, which took place after protracted negotiations between the widowed Duchess of Norfolk and Edward IV whose purpose was to obtain the Mowbray inheritance.

Calorie count

From Mr Michael Kipps
Sir, In her letter (January 5) Mrs Rowland enquired about the food value of one pint of Mrs Beeton's "Benevolent Soup".

I calculate that this soup would provide only 90 kilocalories of energy per pint, seven grams of protein (a tenth of the recommended daily amount for adults), and small quantities of vitamins and minerals.

This soup would not keep a man or a woman in good health if this was all they were consuming. For example, a sedentary male has a daily recommended amount of food energy of some 2,400 kilocalories.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KIPPS,
(Senior Lecturer in Food Science),
University of Surrey,
Department of Hotel, Catering and Tourism Management,
Guildford,
Surrey.

Red alert

From Lieutenant Colonel G. H. Peebles
Sir, The defence shake-up to which your front-page article (January 2) referred has had interesting side-effects. A friend telephoned the Ministry of Defence just before Christmas and, on being connected, asked to whom he was speaking.

"Actually, I'm in a lift" was the reply "I got into this lift and suddenly the emergency telephone rang, so I picked it up and it was you!"

My friend, a retired officer, who was ringing from Aberdeen, retired once more, duly shaken.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
GAVIN PEEBLES,
53 Coldstream Gardens,
West Hill, SW18.

What worries me, both as a schoolmaster and as a keen follower of the game, is that many of the 18-year-olds who enjoy their first XV rugby so much while at school fail to involve themselves in club rugby when they leave.

With a few honourable exceptions the major English clubs seem to do little to identify and encourage the wealth of talent and skill shown by our 18-year-olds, skill which results from excellent coaching at all levels in the school and which makes so much of the schoolboy rugby I see a constant delight to watch.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DANIEL, Headmaster,
The Royal Grammar School,
High Street,
Guildford,
Surrey,
January 2.

فكر احدنا الاصل

THE ARTS



Galleries: John Russell Taylor examines, and challenges, received wisdom about Marc Chagall in light of the major exhibition at the Royal Academy

Buried alive in his own rich garden?

Of course we all know that Chagall is a great painter: he must be, he has been around being great for so long. Or at any rate he has been around for so long and in his degree, become the grand old man of painting - and finally, perhaps by default, the greatest living painter. (Well, who else would you suggest? Doh! Bathus? Bacon?) All the same, in the light of much of his work since 1940 - or, some might say, since 1920 - we do badly need reminding just why, how and when he was really great. This important function, it must be said right away, the Royal Academy's comprehensive and splendid Chagall show (until March 31) fulfils immaculately.

It is, first of all, an extremely serious show. That is to say it takes its subject with becoming seriousness, which, with Chagall's constant tendency to lapse into prettiness and whimsy, it would be very easy not to do. The catalogue (at snip at £7.90) does the painter proud, treating him like an old master with not only a large number of excellent colour reproductions but also the deployment of elaborate and detailed scholarship. And the show itself is laid out with all the flair the Academy usually brings to these things, but at the same time soberly, giving each work room to breathe, and so time to make its maximum effect.

The only complaint I can see against the whole enterprise are that there is minimal representation of Chagall's enormous output of prints (though supplementation is at hand in this area with a show devoted exclusively to these at the Institut Français, Chagall et la Bible, until February 8), and that there is no real documentation, even photographic, of the monumental projects which much occupied Chagall in the Seventies, such as the ceiling of the Paris Opera and the mosaic wall in Chicago sponsored by the First National Bank of Chicago.

Small complaints, however, in relation to the organizers' achievement in giving us a chance to see Chagall plain and about as near whole as possible. But that leaves the big question up to us: with all the evidence before us, what, exactly, do we make of Chagall's lifetime achievement? And, make no mistake, it is a real lifetime that we are speaking of - indeed, nearly two average working lives, when you consider that the first painting in the show was made almost 80 years ago, in 1907, and the most recent only last year, when the painter was 87. (Incidentally, the two 1984 paintings are amazingly firm and confident - whatever one may think of later Chagall, how many painters have been painting so well in their late nineties; how many, indeed, have been painting at all?)

Television Blessed relief from unwanted advice

In these days of a falling birthrate procreation is an once-or-twice-in-a-lifetime luxury; add this fact to the exponential growth of information about perinatal matters and a baby becomes an alarming little alien radiating potential guilt, which the prudent approach only with massive stocks of advice.

There were no well-scrubbed young persons in jeans chatting patronizingly about "kids" and to suave obstetricians lecturing mothers en masse about pre-conceptual nutrition and carpal tunnel syndrome. Instead the presenters, Paula Yates and Jools Holland, interviewed a selection of young celebrities about their pregnancies. The tone of the assembled anecdotes was miraculously fresh and unsentimental.

Clotheslines (Channel 4) was an American-made film of appealing modesty which filled the screen with the soothing sight of blowing laundry while the women who had washed it talked around the task. In these days of tumble-driers it is almost a time capsule; a niche in the linen cupboard of social history will go to the lady who explained that she stored her clean sheets with satin ribbons tied around them, because she hated the chore of washing them but knew her friends would inspect her work on the sly.

John Halas looks up from his drawing-board where, with paper and celluloid, he is creating the illusion of Leonardo da Vinci drawing The Virgin and Child. "They call me the pope of the animation industry," he says. The pope epithet is an apposite one, for at 72 the veteran animator of some 2,000 cartoon films is embarking on a crusade. "My aim," he explains, "is to show people that animation is the most vital art momentum of our age."

Standard Chartered Bank announces that on and after 14th January 1985 its Base Rate for lending is being increased from 10 1/2% to 12% p.a. The interest rate payable on deposit accounts subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will be increased from 7 1/2% to 9% p.a. The interest rate payable on High Interest deposit accounts subject to twenty one days notice of withdrawal will be increased from 8 1/2% to 10% p.a.

Concert Sinfonietta/Bernas EMI, Abbey Road I would have thought that one of the most difficult compositional acts must be to write a painful, purposeful silence. Within a framework where expectation is clear, like a Haydn sonata movement, a silence can be electrifying; elsewhere, how to avoid making it sound like a mere absence? Simon Holt has succeeded in writing a quite marvellous silence at the centre of his Mirromaze (1981), which was given its first professional performance by the London Sinfonietta on Sunday night.

Concert Celia Brayfield until they peter out in a mirror-image of the beginning. This performance was part of the SPNPM's extremely valuable scheme by which works are rehearsed, discussed and (with the dispensation of the Musicians Union) recorded for deposit at the British Music Information Centre. It is a scheme that could well be extended, for it is high time we remedied the lack of any reasonably comprehensive archive of British contemporary music.



Opera Rigoletto Coliseum

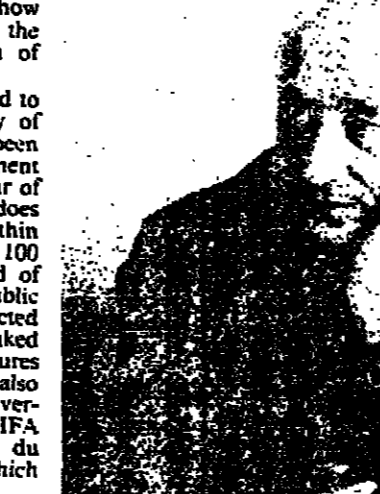
When Jonathan Miller's Mafia-style production of Rigoletto was new there were doubts expressed, though not on this page, about whether so bold a reconception could survive repeat acquaintance. Well, it can. Only two years have passed, but already the production has been seen on both sides of the Atlantic with various casts. It returns to London now, however, with the same singers in the two principal male roles as originally: John Rawnsley and Arthur Davies.

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In the 'Year of Animation', Brian Sibley meets the British expert John Halas

The vital momentum of our time



John Halas: "I want to prove that animation is an exciting and dynamic art-form"

To help convert the world to the power and potentiality of animation, 1985 has been designated (with the agreement of the United Nations) Year of Animation, marking as it does two major anniversaries within the industry. It is 100 years since Emile Reynaud of France gave the first public demonstration of his Projected Praxinoscope, a hand-cranked machine that gave still pictures an illusion of life. This year also sees the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation), of which Halas is president.

maximum number of people in the shortest possible time. Customers are let in for two hours to see a feature and then cleared out in order to make room for the next lot of customers. Doing without a supporting programme enables the distributors to keep as much money for themselves as possible. Halas, in fact, is an exception to this general rule, having made, in recent years, two very successful and profitable short subjects. One of them, Players, was put on release with Sophie's Choice; the other, Dilemma (incidentally the world's first fully computer-generated film), accompanied Return of the Jedi.

\$300m. a year. But animation is also being used in many other areas: for promotional and educational films, little sequences, video and computer graphics and special effects used to enhance live-action movies like Star Wars, Tron and the recently released Ghostbusters. So, is the future role of animation to be simply that of an advertising medium or an ancillary effects service to the film industry? Halas thinks not. "Of course it will continue to assist major projects like Jedi for many years to come, just as it will go on selling soap and cosmetics, but it won't stop the animator fulfilling his true role as storyteller or from using animation to create illusions that cannot possibly be created by live-action film-makers."

THE TIMES Portfolio

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BANKS DISCOUNT HP

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Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists various brewery companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists various electrical companies.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares and gilts tumble

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings, Began Jan 14, Dealings End, Jan 25, Contango Day, Jan 28, Settlement Day, Feb 4. \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under BUILDING AND ROADS.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under FINANCE AND LAND.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under FOODS.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under CHEMICALS, PLASTICS.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under CINEMAS AND TV.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under DRAPERY AND STORES.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under HOTELS AND CATERERS.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under INDUSTRIALS A-D.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under E-K.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under L-R.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under S-Z.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under INSURANCE.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under LEISURE.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under MINING.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under PROPERTY.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under OIL.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under OVERSEAS TRADERS.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under SHIPING.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under SHOES AND LEATHER.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under TEXTILES.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under TOBACCO.

Table with columns: 1984/85 High, Low, Stock, Price, Chg, % P/E, Gross Div. Yld. Lists companies under NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Bank of England is back in business

The Bank of England made a welcome return to the markets yesterday morning as it acted with one of its better flourishes of old-fashioned theatricality to cope with the mess left by the Treasury's conviction that it knows best and actually understands markets.

The Bank has had a lean time of late from Government ministers, thanks to its unhappy handling of the Johnson-Matthews affair, and a lack of leadership, felt within the Bank, from the Governor's office, as well as obvious lack of leadership in the money markets. It is important that its gesture of dusting down the suspended Minimum Lending Rate rather than merely jacking up its market dealing rates as the opportunity arose, should work.

In truth, MLR might better have taken the initials of the Treasury's more proper concern, the PSBR. Nothing to do with budget deficits, you understand, more the "Panic Button Rate", or, as a plea to the foreign exchange dealers, the "Please Somebody Buy Rate".

It is to be hoped that a 2 1/2-3 per cent rise in the banks' base interest rates will do the trick, but by no means yet certain. Sterling duly recovered in the morning, but then the buying stopped. Things turned sour after lunch with the dollar firming and the pound weakening back all round. Interbank interest rates were rising further as the afternoon progressed to reach 12 1/2 per cent.

There seems little doubt at the moment that the money markets are temporarily responding to the foreign exchange markets rather than domestic monetary factors. So the behaviour of the pound overnight and this morning will determine whether 12 per cent base rates prove enough.

It is important for the Bank's handling of what inaction turned into a crisis that market rates should not stay above base rates; otherwise some quick borrowing and lending back for a turn could do nasty things for the next set of money figures based on the banks' monthly make-up date tomorrow. Moreover, it would also wreck the sale of the Bank's new gilt-edged tap stock.

The stock, £800 million of partly-paid Exchange 10 1/2 per cent redeemable in 2005, was rushed through on the technique of a taplet, being sold direct by the Bank instead of going through the usual advertised offer for sale to save time and show, along with MLR, the Bank is really taking money control seriously this time.

At the indicated sale price of £98 per £100 stock, the new loan is in line with the market rate at around 10.71 per cent, but that could change if the foreign exchange market fails to respond. As it is, the new loan is too late to count against January money supply growth, even though it is for sale tomorrow. February will be an important month for funding.

It is also important to note that this is the first entirely new gilt-edged stock at the long end of the market since November 1980. That slot was deliberately left for companies to raise loans, cutting pressure on bank lending. It has not happened on the scale hoped for because companies, egged on by successive Chancellors, have always been looking for those lower interest rates tomorrow. That is the basic cause of the underlying £1.4 billion-£1.5 billion a month growth in bank lending which has obliged the Bank to fund more than the public sector's needs to keep money growth even at the top of generous targets and left money control continuously under strain.

This problem will not be solved overnight. Therefore, it would be wholly counterproductive for anyone to claim that the latest hike in interest rates is purely a short-term hiccup. The need to sell British Telecom persuaded the authorities to engineer a quick fall in rates after the summer imbroglio and falling US rates allowed them to do it. Those factors have gone and today's behaviour on the foreign exchanges, however irrational, shows just how weak sterling is. Money control will remain uncomfortable unless interest rates were raised high enough to choke off demand for loans, which really would damage recovery. We must expect today's rates to stay for a bit even if they do not go higher.

Let us hope that is not necessary. The markets seemed to be going over the top yesterday afternoon and the Bank's firm action now, however late and therefore needlessly painful, deserves to succeed.

Huge support for Sterling (J)

Yesterday's formal announcement of terms for putting SGT together with P & O was greeted with an enthusiasm bordering on euphoria. The market's reaction reflected pleasure at the terms, which are an admirable exercise in fairness; beyond that it registered belief in the concept of merging the two companies and a faith in the abilities of Sir Jeffrey Sterling and Mr Bruce MacPhail, who will be managing director of the combined group, to make it work.

It is worth making the point that the changes made at P & O in the past 12 months, under Sir Jeffrey's chairmanship, demonstrate how much a active and dedicated management can achieve. There is, of course, plenty still to do; shipping, both cruising and merchant, is not a bed of roses and the business of making a true merger of two culturally diverse companies is never easy.

The terms are £2 of P & O deferred stock and 55p nominal stock for every 11 10p ordinary shares in SGT. The new P & O deferred stock will rank equally with the existing stock except that it will not rank for the special 9p, net second interim, in lieu of a final dividend for 1984. The P & O convertible preferred stock will be convertible into deferred stock between 1985 and 1990 at the rate of £100 of deferred for £340 of convertible.

The immediate response to the terms was electric. P & O shares, which had been suspended last week at 32 1/2p, opened at 34 1/2p and climbed to 39 1/2p before closing at 38 1/2p. SGT resumed at 75p and went to 77p before closing at 73p. Assuming a value for the convertible of £120, the deal is worth about 76p per SGT share.

For P & O shareholders there is a pleasing bonus. They are being offered the chance of buying SGT's existing shares in P & O, on a basis of one share for every four held at a price of 300p. This offer is conditional on the merger's going through; should it not do so, SGT has the right to take back its P & O shares at 300p each. It will however, go through!

The new group could not have had a more encouraging send-off than it did yesterday in a market beset by deep concerns and higher interest rates. A market capitalization of £1 billion and an instantly strengthened balance sheet prepare for as well as promise an expanding future. Looking at the immediate prospect for profits and earnings, P & O at 38 1/2p can hardly be said to be outrageously expensive. Almost overnight it has become a share which few investors will not want to hold.

Maxwell through the looking glass

After six months at the helm of Mirror Group Newspapers, Robert Maxwell has acted with customary speed and ruthlessness. The Scottish group, comprising the Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail is to receive the bouquet of an independent share quote later this year. For the business at Holborn Circus in London, home of the Daily and Sunday Mirror, Sunday People and The Sporting Life, there are large-scale redundancies and savage cost-cutting.

The Scottish operation is, in a restricted sense, healthier than its English counterpart, which has to support two printing centres, in London and Manchester, and suffer the daily heat of competition from The Sun (failure to agree terms to print The Sun in Glasgow means that the Daily Record leads a relatively sheltered life). Overall, MGN's performance has been deteriorating for two years. The last annual report of MGN's former parent, Reed International, shows that MGN's trading profit had fallen from £8.1 million to £5.7 million in the year to April 1984. Mr Maxwell now predicts profits of £3 million to £4 million from Scotland this year, but less than £1 million from Holborn Circus. Employees of the Scottish business are to be offered 10 per cent of the shares in their company when it goes public at a value of some £50 million, while a controlling stake will remain with Pergamon Group. Mr Maxwell's master company in the United Kingdom. But for London and Manchester he has drawn the surgical knife, last used to great effect at British Printing & Communication Corporation. Manchester, we are told, costs £17 million; it will survive only if manning can be drastically reduced.

Shops fear slump in sales after record December

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Record December sales, covering hectic Christmas selling and the start of the January sales, were reported yesterday as the prospect of higher interest and mortgage rates left a continued slump in question.

The Retail Consortium trade body said: "The December figures are very encouraging but retail sales growth is fragile and the factors now in 1985 could be too much for it." Until the events of the weekend and today it was possible to look for a positive sales increase in 1985. There is now a question mark over that. We might have to end up being happy for any positive increase. This could well prove a difficult year for retailers. The post-January sales period is usually quiet but could now see a slump. Retailers are worried that this week's interest

rate rise, with a further rise and a jump in mortgage interest rates likely, could dampen consumer confidence.

They are also worried that there is little left to come from consumer savings and that if consumers lost confidence the savings rate may start to rise again.

The Budget may bring personal tax reductions, but a widening of value-added tax could cancel out any advantages, it is feared.

However, it was clearly a good Christmas in the high streets even though the Department of Trade and Industry had given a warning that its provisional figures for December should be treated with more than usual caution on seasonal adjustment. The seasonally adjusted volume sales index jumped to a

Table with 2 columns: Retail Sales (Sales by volume, Sales by value) and rows for 1983 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, 1984 Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, 1984 Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Nov, Dec.

record 117.5 (1980 = 100), an increase of 2.5 points over November and a 4.5 per cent increase over December last year. Sales in the three months to the end of December were nearly 3 per cent higher than the previous three months. In the year as a whole the volume of

sales was 4 per cent up on 1983. The value of sales last month, not seasonally adjusted, show a 9 per cent increase on the same month in 1983. In 1984 overall the average value of sales was 8 per cent higher than the year before.

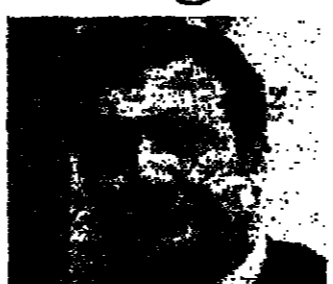
One factor in the December surge was the effect of the reduction in mortgage rates, being felt for the first time. Some holders of British Telecom shares may also have taken their profits to finance Christmas.

Many department stores have been reporting sales increases of a fifth or more. In the first two days of Harrods' sale £9 million worth of goods were sold, a 21 per cent increase on last year. At the 21 department stores of the John Lewis Partnership the week before Christmas and the two days after, which included clearance sales, saw an increase of 20.4 per cent.

Channel tunnel guidelines soon

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The Government looks likely to reject a number of concessions which Channel tunnel lobbyists have been pressing for to grant the project preferential tax treatment would - if confirmed - be a disappointment. A number of other key decisions which will affect the viability of any fixed link scheme have still to be resolved by the joint Anglo-French working party which is drawing up the guidelines.



Sir Nigel Brookes: proposals this year

operation. They are expected to place a limit on the level of overseas investment in the project. Further conditions are likely to include a stipulation that the builders of the link will be responsible for dismantling the structure if it proves technically impossible to complete it.

The new customs and London rail terminal facilities that will be needed to handle the

extra Channel traffic will have to be privately financed. Although several of these conditions have been expected by the three main industry consortia still in the running to build a fixed link, refusal to grant the project preferential tax treatment would - if confirmed - be a disappointment.

Once the guidelines are published, the Government is expected to publish the various schemes to submit detailed proposals by the end of this year. The three schemes in the running are the Channel tunnel group's conventional bored tunnel, the Eurotunnel combined tunnel/bridge scheme, whose chairman is Sir Nigel Brookes, and the Eurobridge suspension bridge.

CJR plans to hand back £100m

By Christopher Dunn

Charterhouse J. Rothschild plans to return approximately £100 million to shareholders, after its two recent deals - the sale of a 24.9 per cent stake in Hambro Life to BAT, and the disposal of its Charterhouse Japhet merchant banking subsidiary to the Royal Bank of Scotland - which netted £320 million in cash.

Mr Jacob Rothschild, head of CJR, is to seek shareholders' approval to buy in nearly 23 per cent of the equity capital, worth about £106 million.

Commenting on the acquisition of Charterhouse Japhet, Mr Sid Procter, the Royal Bank of Scotland's chief executive, said: "This is a wonderful deal. It will help us accelerate, and make the last three years' work worthwhile." Tempus, page 21

Norway defies Opec with oil price cut

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Norwegian Government oil trader Statoil has effectively cut prices by announcing that it is abandoning fixed prices for its January North Sea output and moving to a system linked to the spot markets. The system will price Norwegian crude at somewhere between the official Norwegian price of \$28.65 and spot market rates, now rising to about \$27.20, but which went as low as \$25.20 at one point.

The move away from a fixed price system by Norway will anger the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) which has been attempting to keep world suppliers committed to term contracts and has threatened Britain and Norway with a price war if they make further price cuts.

The British National Oil Corporation, however, is unlikely to follow Norway and although selling its January output on the spot markets has denied that it has abandoned

term contracts and is likely to announce a new official price after the Opec meeting on January 28.

Despite its assertions that it has not abandoned the contract system BNOC has sold 800,000 barrels a day during January on a system broadly similar to that now being officially announced by Norway and oil traders have indicated that the practice will continue to cover some of February's output.

The move away from a fixed price system by Norway will anger the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) which has been attempting to keep world suppliers committed to term contracts and has threatened Britain and Norway with a price war if they make further price cuts.

Opec has since then pinned its hopes on worsening weather increasing demand and sending spot-prices up to its official level. That tactic is having some success, with prices of the light North Sea, Arabian and Nigerian crudes showing gains of up to 25 cents over the weekend.

Mercantile takes stake in Japan

By Our City Staff

Mercantile House, the financial services group, has bought for £1.7 million a 45 per cent stake in Hitori, a Japanese domestic foreign exchange and deposit broking business, as part of its plan to build up a substantial presence in the Tokyo market.

Mercantile's money broking offshoot, M. W. Marshall and Co, already has an office in Japan but this is the first acquisition the group has made there.

Mercantile is also planning to buy a stake in one of Japan's leading securities trading houses but Mr John Barkshire, the chairman stressed yesterday that these talks could take up to two years to complete. "We intend to build up a substantial presence in Tokyo", Mr Barkshire said.

US buy for Smith & Nephew

By Jeremy Warner

Smith & Nephew, the health care products group, is expanding in the United States with the acquisition for \$57.9 million (£51.9 million) of Affiliated Hospital Products, a leading US manufacturer of surgical instruments, dental and medical needles, and specialized medical equipment such as operating tables.

Agreement has been reached with AHP's existing parent group, United Industrial, to buy its 72.7 per cent shareholding in the company and Smith & Nephew intends to commence a tender offer for the publicly-held balance of 27.3 per cent, worth \$36 (£32.30) a share.

The deal, which will require the approval of Smith & Nephew shareholders, is expected to be completed by March.

Tate & Lyle UK COMPANY NEWS. Profits up 21 per cent to record £88m and dividend raised 10 per cent. £36m expansion in agriproducts. Tate & Lyle Canadian offshoot in £28m deal.

Strong financial position and record profits

Sir Robert Haslam, Chairman of Tate & Lyle, reports:

Once again, I am pleased to be able to report record Group profits before tax of £69.2m, an increase of £11.9m or 21% over the previous year.

The Group's financial position is very strong, and the Board is able to recommend a final dividend of 12.5p per share to make a total for the year of 19.0p, 19% higher than last year.

Sugar in the EEC. The raw sugar requirements of our UK refineries continue to be supplied under the Lomé Convention by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) sugar producers. The level of capital expenditure in the UK, reflects our own confidence that this supply will be maintained.

Portugal's negotiations for accession to the EEC could provide an opportunity for the Community to give further aid through trade to the ACP sugar producing countries. Portugal has requested that all its future requirements for cane raw sugar should be supplied from ACP countries. We are strongly supporting their efforts to increase the Lomé tonnage by the full amount of Portugal's requirements.

Sugar & Health. We are naturally concerned about, and investigate carefully, any suggestions that our products might be injurious to health. We therefore welcome this year's authoritative report of the UK Government's Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy.

In contrast, biased attacks on sugar based on unsubstantiated accusations of damage to health have continued

without abatement. We have now decided that we should set the record straight and we propose to launch an information campaign on this issue during the coming year.

The Next Step. The Group's strategy of expansion in related businesses is evidenced by recent acquisitions in North America totalling over £70m. These are examples of our policy of buying suitable businesses where opportunities arise, but efforts to find more significant acquisitions are undiminished.

People. The transformation of the Group during the past few years is the best possible testimony to the enviable qualities of our employees.

We remain confident of the prospects for our business and look to the future with optimism and enthusiasm.

Table with 2 columns: 1984, 1983. Rows: Turnover (£1,722m vs £1,784m), Profit before tax (£69.2m vs £57.3m), Profit after tax attributable to shareholders (£37.5m vs £33.6m), Earnings per share (54.8p vs 59.5p), Dividends per share (19.0p vs 16.0p), Dividend cover (2.9 times vs 3.7 times).

Form for requesting a copy of the 1984 Annual Report, including fields for Name and Address, and a coupon to be returned to C. P. McFie, Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC.

First profits for Atlantic flights in ten years

By John Lawless

The dollar's strength is producing profits for some of the big airlines on the North Atlantic route - the world's busiest - for the first time in more than 10 years.

A record number of 19.6 million passengers is estimated to have flown on scheduled services between Europe and North America during 1984, according to figures to be released next week by the Geneva-based International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The route has been a financial graveyard for airlines because of cut-throat competition after the first oil shock of 1973. But the route is one on which they have felt obliged to compete, because it produces a fifth of their total worldwide revenue. Turnover last year is expected to have risen to \$8.7 billion (about £7.8 billion) and British Airways said yesterday that it was among those airlines which are now back in profit across the North Atlantic.

A big increase in the number of American tourists taking cheap holidays in Europe has produced the surge across the Atlantic, while the strong growth of the US economy has sucked in air-freighted imports from Europe in record quantities. Cargo levels rose by at least 25 per cent to the US last year.

Mr Jim Harris, BA's marketing director, said: "Throughout 1984, in the face of the falling pound, we have maintained good traffic levels to the US and forward bookings for 1985 have remained good."

MARKET SUMMARY. STOCK MARKETS: FT Ind Ord 949.3 (-19.0), FT Govt Securities 79.91 (-1.04), FT-SE 100 1,220.5 (-22.75), Datasystem USM 104.43 (-1.88), New York Dow Jones 1,220.19 (+2.10), Tokyo Nikkei Dow 11,823.91 (+11.67), Hang Seng 1,358.06 (+5.37), Amsterdams 187.9 (-0.9), Sydney: AO 734.1 (+3.3), Frankfurt Commerzbank 1,130.8 (-11.9), Brussels General 157.20 (-6.40), Paris: CAC 189.7 (-2.3), Zurich: SGA General 331.80 (+0.10). GOLD: London fixing am \$301.25pm-\$299.00, close \$301.75-\$302.25 (\$271.25-271.75), New York: Comex \$303.50. MAIN PRICE CHANGES: RIBES: Sennah Rubber 175p+400p, P & O 38 1/2p+58p, Woodhouse & Nyxson 21.50p+3p, Millfort Docks 42p+5p, C. H. Bailey 'B' 186p+18p, New Jersey Knit 29p+3p, Hugh Mackay 82p+7p, Normans Group 80p+5p, Epley Trust 16p+1p, Britair Group 278p+15p, Pentamind Industries 383p+20p. FALLS: Reardon Smith 'A' 7p-2p, Pineapple Dance 83p-15p, Resource Technology 32p-7p, Rymechanics Int'l 11p-2p, Microvitec 73p-10p, Applied Botanicals 3.75p-0.5p, G. B. Castle 39p-5p, Acorn Computer 54p-8p, Reardon Smith 18p-2p, Sunlight Electronics 59p-9p, Cifer 18p-2p, Armstrong Equipment 34.5p-3.5p, Royal Bank of Scotland 226p-22p, Charterhouse J. Rothschild 106p-8p. CURRENCIES: London: £: \$1.1105 (-0.0192), £: DM 3.5480 (-0.01002), £: SwFr 2.9710 (-0.0055), £: FF 10.8540 (-0.0390), £: Yen 283.50 (-2.85), £ Index: 70.8 (-1.0). New York: £: \$1.1115, £: DM 3.1927, £ Index: 148.7 (+1.1). ECU ECU 62.2506, SDR ECU 86.7846. INTEREST RATES: London: Bank Base: 12%, 3-month interbank 12%-12 1/4%, 3-month eligible bills 11 1/4%, buying rate, US: Prime Rate 10.75%, Federal Funds 8%, 3-month Treasury Bills 7.75-7.72%, Long bond 10 1/4%-10 1/8%.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for stock prices, including AMF, AMR, Allied, etc., and their performance over time.

Prices show early rise

New York (agencies) - Shares headed higher in early moderate trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which fell 5.41 to 1,218.09 on Friday was up 0.55 to 1,218.64.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including Rubber, Coffee, Cocoa, Sugar, and various metals like Lead, Zinc, and Copper.

APPOINTMENTS

Portman Building Society: Mr Michael Parkinson has been appointed general manager-designate. Brightside Mechanical and Electrical Services Group: Mr Norman Sherwood has been made chief executive and succeeds Mr H. H. Frichard.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

The lead from the authorities on interest rates yesterday looked for a spell as though it had a chance of underpinning sterling and hence the level of domestic interest rates. But the dollar strength was still not to be underestimated and period rates in the money markets closed at levels around the top of the day, reflecting fears that interest rates in general will have to see even higher levels within the next few days.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The Bank of England's attempt to bolster the pound by initiating a move back up to the 12 per cent base rate level last July met with very limited success because of the strong dollar. The pound was looking reasonably healthy by lunchtime with the rate up at \$1.1320 but the dollar suddenly took off, surging to about \$1.9800 against the Deutsche mark.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Three Month Sterling, Three Month Eurodollar, and US Treasury Bond.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table of Canadian prices for various commodities like Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for Name, Price, Change, and Yield.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts including City of London, City of London, and others.

STEELING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of steeling spot and forward rates for various grades of steel.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various countries like Australia, Canada, and Japan.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Large table of authorized unit trusts with columns for Name, Bid, Offer, and Yield.

COMPANY NEWS

REGUSON INDUSTRIAL - Nine months to Nov 30. Pigs in 2000. T/over 109,527 (107,195). Pretax profit 4,873 (4,792). Tax 2,095 (1,657).

COMPANY NEWS

BOC GROUP - As foreshadowed in its 1984 annual report, BOC Group has sold its Jackson products division, which manufactures and sells safety and welding accessories and was part of the group's US welding business.

COMPANY NEWS

INTERNATIONAL CORONA RESOURCES and Teck Corporation have signed a Canadian \$154m (£103m) financing agreement with a seven-member group of banks for developing their jointly-held gold property in Ontario, Canada.

COMPANY NEWS

WARNER HOLIDAYS - Year to Sept 30. (Figs in £000) Gross revenue 12,962 (12,800). Loss before tax 1,260 (2,660). Tax credit 1,525 (1,450), making profit 265 (1,201). Tax 458 (464). EPS 6.7p (5.4p) undiluted.

COMPANY NEWS

GUINNESS PEAT - Arrangements have been completed whereby Guinness Peat will acquire 21 million Guinness Peat ordinary shares of £1 each, 21 per cent of the Guinness Peat ordinary share capital.

STAFF SIDE SENDS BLUE ARROW SOARING 115%

Blue Arrow, the staff recruitment and holiday company which came to the US last July, has reported a profit of \$4,000 in the year to October 31. This is an increase of 115 per cent over 1983 and comfortably ahead of the prospectus forecast of at least \$360,000.

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RECENT ISSUES

Table of recent issues including American Savings, Bank of America, and others.

Part one of a Times investigation into who is behind the continuing million-pound property deals in London

For sale: jewels in the capital's crown

WHO OWNS LONDON?

The Church, the Crown, the landed estates and the City

livery companies own vast areas of London. But overseas interests are acquiring its outstanding buildings. Report by Judith Huntley and Christopher Warman

Horror stories hit the headlines 10 years ago that London was being "invaded" by Arabs snapping up property as fast as they could go. London was certainly a favourite resting-home for the money spread around after oil prices quadrupled; the cost of London penthouses soared; clubs and restaurants were in demand; shares were bought in property companies and inflation at around 15 per cent made property an attractive proposition.

In 1976, it was estimated that Arabs owned 10,000 flats in London and were spending £200 million a year in Britain. The sale of the Dorchester hotel in Park Lane, for £9 million to a Saudi consortium, but the headlines; it later passed to Lebanese, and then American owners. A similar price was paid for the Park Tower Hotel in Knightsbridge.

The Savoy Group, which owned Claridges, the Savoy, the Berkeley and the Connaught, was the subject of an abortive bid from Arab interests. To top quality investment in London property were much in demand. The Abu Dhabi investment board, for example, bought a £36 million interest in Commercial Union Assurance's City headquarters.

Perhaps the most spectacular deal was the Kuwaiti royal family's purchase of the St. Martin's Property Corporation for £107 million, equivalent to almost a week's oil revenues, in 1974. It made the Kuwait Investment Office one of the biggest landowners in London, with valuable London holdings. At the time St. Martin's had 2 million sq ft of offices in London, including Winchester House in the City. The building is now for sale with two other office blocks with a total price tag of £95 million.

Much of the cash flowing from Kuwaiti oil is channelled through the Kuwait Investment Office which was set up in London in the 1950s. At the time of the Arab "invasion" the Office dealt with the 40 per cent of oil revenues paid in sterling and estimated that £100 million a year was passing through its books.

Some of this money was invested in property company shares, and still is. The Office likes to keep its business close to its chest, however, and it is extremely difficult to find out exactly how much it has invested in London property. It has a scattering of property company investments at the notifiable 5 per cent level, and may have even more that are unknown.

The Office has been buying and selling property shares in the last few years. It sold some property holdings in 1983 and wanted to offload its stake in Great Portland Estates and Stock Conversion and Investment Trust; but at the end of last year it increased to 7.2 per cent its stake in Trafalgar House, the hotel, engineering and property group. All these companies have significant

London property investments in their portfolios. But perhaps the most visible expression of the wealth of the Kuwaiti Royal Family lies on the riverside next to London Bridge. St. Martin's Property Corporation is developing a half-mile long site from London Bridge to Tower Bridge with a £350 million scheme to include 2 million sq ft of offices, a private hospital, homes and shopping. The £20 million first phase, next to London Bridge, is already under way.

In the City of London, foreign companies are investing millions in buying property, in some cases occupying part of the building and sub-letting the rest.

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company has sold its building in Leadenhall Street to the Union Bank of Switzerland for £71 million; and American Express paid £30 million for Peninsular House; Two French companies recently bought offices in the heart of the City: the Societe Generale paid £30 million for 60 Gracechurch Street, and Banque Paribas bought 68 Lombard Street, close to the Bank of England, for £18 million.

Middle Eastern money is still in evidence in the City. Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed al-Maktoum, ruler of Dubai and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, for example, recently bought St. Magnus House on the river-front for £40 million. And the Arab Banking Corporation is rumoured to be buying No. 1 Moorgate at the rear of the Bank of England, from Commercial Union Assurance, which has owned it for some time.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has Finsbury Square House, for which it paid £15.3 million, and a similar sum was realized when the UBAF Bank acquired 30 Guildhall.

The Moscow Narodny Bank is spending £30 million on buying and refurbishing 81 King William Street near London Bridge, which it bought from John Swire & Sons last year. And an American insurance company is believed to be in the market for an £8 million City building.

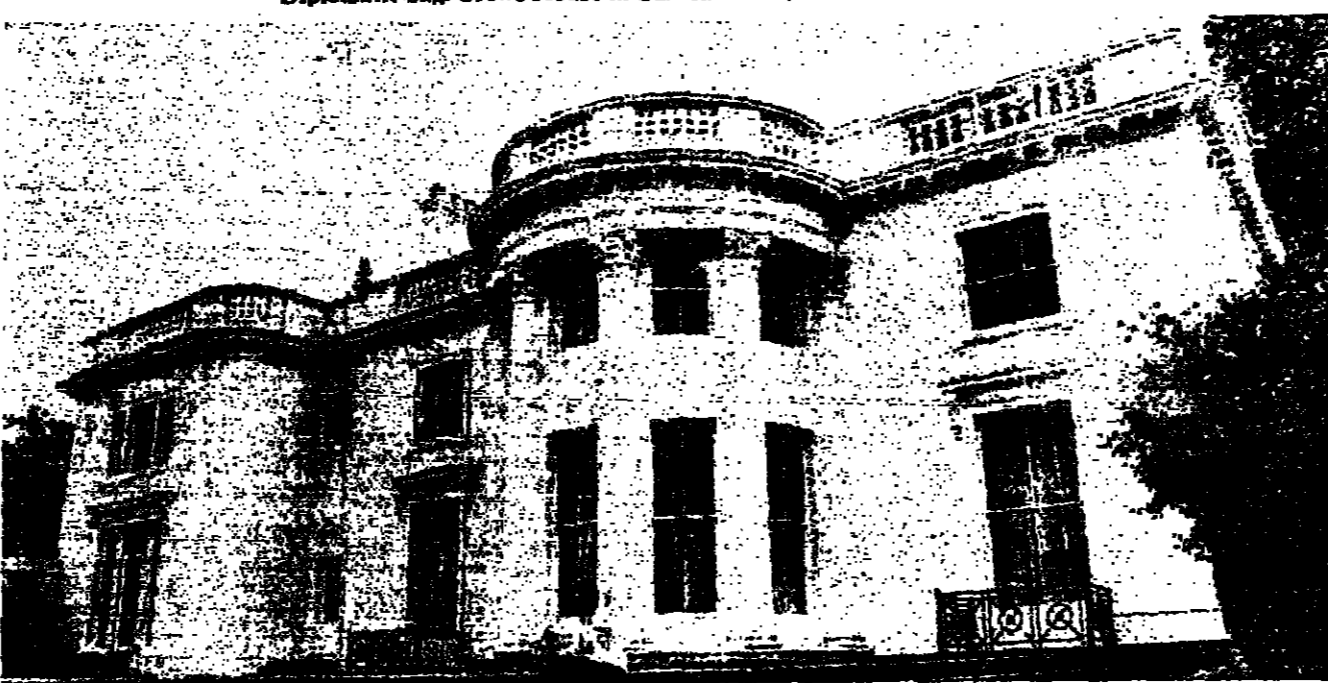
These sales are evidence of foreign investors, confident in the long-term future of the City of London. Most purchasers are buying for owner-occupation or for part-occupation and part-letting, and believe they will have an appreciating asset.

In the West End, the Saudis recently bought the former headquarters of the Thomas Tilling Group in Mayfair for their London embassy, Crewe House, in Curzon Street, once the home of the Liberal Marquess of Crewe, realized £37 million and was sold to Saudi Arabia by BTR which acquired it on its £600 million takeover of Thomas Tilling. A figure of £50 million was put on Crewe House at that time.

The Saudis intend to spend a small fortune on the building and will remove some of the



Diplomatic bag: Crewe House in Curzon Street, the new Saudi embassy



Secret service: The Holme sold to a Middle Eastern buyer in the utmost secrecy



Holiday home: Whiteacres in St John's Wood bought by the Qatar royal family

less attractive excrescences added since it was built in 1708 by Edward Shepherd, who gave his name to the nearby Shepherd Market.

But despite foreign interest, much land and buildings in London have remained in the same hands for centuries. The Church, the Crown and the landed estates of the aristocracy still own vast areas of the West End, the City, Victoria and Pimlico. But London is being bought increasingly by pension funds and insurance companies, whose massive wealth accrues from the man in the street.

The British Petroleum Pension Trust, for example, now owns large parts of Berkeley Square in Mayfair. It bought the Square itself and property in the

streets stretching from Charles Street to Brunton Street, taking in Farm Street, Hill Street and Hays Mews for £6 million in 1969. What started life as a farm on the estate of Royalist Civil War commander, Lord Berkeley of Stratton is now one of London's most expensive office areas.

The 30 acres owned by B P Pension Trust are worth about £90 million, and the Trust recently added to its interests by buying for £17.5 million the freehold of Berger House in Berkeley Square from Berger Jensen, the paint manufacturer whose London headquarters it is.

Perhaps the best known of the landed estates is the Grosvenor Estate. It covers 300

acres of London's most exclusive and expensive neighbourhoods and belongs to the family interests of the Duke of Westminster, reputedly the richest man in Britain. No one really knows how many millions his property is worth, but it includes large parts of Mayfair, Park Lane, Bond Street and Grosvenor Square, including the site of the American Embassy.

The Estate recently bought the Department of Health and Social Security's part of St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner. It already owned half the site, and plans to build a large office development and restore the hospital building to its former glory.

The Church, too, retains large property holdings. Some £38 million a year, about a third of the Church's income, derives from its property. At the last count its commercial property holdings in London produced £20 million in gross rents.

A stretch of Victoria Street, from Victoria Station to the Army & Navy store, belongs to the Church. But the heart of its real estate lies in land that once belonged to the Bishops of London from Bayswater Road to Maida Vale. Two residential estates, the 90-acre Hyde Park Estate and the Maida Vale Estate, together with homes in south London, account for over 90 per cent of the value of the Church's £170 million property holdings.

A strong indication of the power of foreign money and interest in London is the sale of The Holme, the Decimus

Burton house in Regent's Park, set in more than four acres. It is probably the most important house to come on the market in London since the war.

The agents, Knight Frank and Rutley, selling on behalf of the Crown Estate, set a minimum price of £5 million, confident that it would be achieved even though the new owner had to prove acceptable to the Crown Commissioners, renovate the place at a cost of at least another £1 million, and agree to open the grounds to the public on occasion.

Their confidence was not misplaced. Several individuals from home and abroad - mostly the latter - determined to make offers, and The Holme, for which another stipulation was that it must be used as a single-family dwelling, has now been sold to a Middle Eastern buyer in utmost secrecy.

The Holme had for years been part of Bedford College of London University, until the lease reverted to the Crown. The other main college buildings last year went on a new lease to Rockford College, Illinois, a private liberal arts college, in a multi-million pound deal - yet another example of overseas infiltration.

As the sale of The Holme illustrates, when overseas buyers - particularly rich Arabs - enter the market seriously, price is no deterrent. Normally they come with specific requirements, as Victoria Mitchell of Savills explains.

"They want a house or flat in attractive and quiet surroundings, looking out on trees and a garden square, which is not always easy when proximity to Harrods is also a necessity. The

property should be light, bright and central, in superb decorative order, freehold if possible and ready for occupation. With no other property sale dependent on it, they want to move in immediately.

If those conditions are fulfilled, little can stop such buyers. Competition between two determined overseas bidders can only increase the price. It is estimated that in 1984 nearly two-thirds of the potential purchasers of houses in London from £150,000 upwards were from overseas. Savills put the figure at 60 per cent, Chestertons at 65 per cent.

That level of interest has been apparent for most of the last 10 years (Hamptons recorded about 70 per cent in 1982) since a number of rich Iranians, anticipating the future, set the pace for a year or two before the Arabs arrived in force in the mid-1970s.

Although the oil moneyed Arabs moved on to the south of France and to the west coast of the United States later in the decade they kept their stake in London. Once established, they often bypass the agents, selling among themselves as they move around.

The weak pound, a stable government and an economy whose principles they admire give London strong attractions for the overseas investor.

Some of the very best properties never come on to the market, making it impossible accurately to assess overseas ownership. But it is likely that of the 30 most expensive, most exclusive private houses in London, those valued at about £5 million and above, possibly as many as 45 are in foreign ownership, many disguised behind companies and nominees.

Witanhurst, a 60-room neo-Palladian mansion in Highgate, has recently been sold by an Arab company to an Arab buyer for a reputed £7 million. In 1983, Number 1 Cornwall Terrace went to a Middle East buyer for about £5 million, while in the same year Mortimer House in Egerton Gardens, formerly owned by the financier Sir Nigel Brookes, was bought by another Middle East purchaser for £3 million.

With such properties at the top of the price pyramid, it is easy to see how overseas buyers own a sizeable chunk of London property, running into billions of pounds.

At the end of 1984 25 properties were for sale with a price guide of £1 million or more. Some have been on the market for many months, overpriced, but the year probably saw some 25 properties of that value sold.

The £1 million property is no longer rare. Whiteacres, an ambassadorial mansion in Avenue Road, St John's Wood was offered at £1.85 million during the summer. By September it was sold for £1.75 million to the Royal family of Qatar. They intend to spend a good deal of money on it, to provide them with a holiday home.

With the Saudi royal family settled on the road in another "millionaires' row" - The Bishops Avenue - the area has a sizeable Arab population. A new development of five houses being built in The Bishops Avenue, and costing £1.5 million upwards, shows a continuing confidence in the future. Most buyers will be from overseas.

There is some evidence that particular nationalities go to particular locations - Arabs near Regent's Park and Nigerians to Bayswater, for example - the



The Duke of Westminster: Mayfair property



Lady Joseph: home price guide of £3.5 million



Sheikh Rashid: deal for £40 million

most prized locations remain Mayfair, especially for the Americans, and Belgravia.

A new influence is being felt from the Far East. Mr Bruce MacEneaney, of Chestertons, reports that while Middle East buyers have held the top position for four years, 1984 held an increase in buyers from the Far East (28 per cent, compared with 28.5 per cent from the Middle East), most of them from Hong Kong, both British expatriates and Chinese.

Hamptons, which has an office in Hong Kong, says that the Hong Kong Chinese who buy do so for investment, while people from the Middle East buy to come to Britain for a month or two during the year, and Americans come to live here. In the last two years inquiries from Hong Kong purchasers have amounted to 15-20 per cent of Hampton's business.

Others note a more recent influx of buyers from Singapore and Malaysia. In the last six months, two Malaysian suitans have bought London apartments.

Few British buyers can compete when the rare jewels among London property come on the market. Lady Joseph, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, put her home, Park House, in South Kensington, on the market in November with a price guide of £3.5 million. It is two cottages joined together, tucked away behind Onslow Square, surrounded by garden, a house almost without comparison. It has now been sold - to an overseas buyer.

Tomorrow: fortunes along the Thames

Bank of Scotland Base Rate

Bank of Scotland announces that, with effect from 14th January, 1985 its Base Rate will be increased from 10.50% per annum to 12.00% per annum

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A FRIEND FOR LIFE



Coutts & Co

Coutts & Co. announce that their Base Rate is increased from 10.50% to 12.00% per annum with effect from the 14th January, 1985 until further notice.

The Deposit Rates on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal are as follows:-

- 8.75% per annum for funds not liable to CRT.
- 6.625% per annum for funds liable to CRT (equivalent to 9.46% per annum to a standard rate taxpayer).

Payments of interest made before 6th April, 1985 will normally be at the gross rate.

APPOINTMENTS

Clyde Petroleum: Dr A. J. Martin has been made exploration director.

Servisair: Mr John S. Willis has been named managing director.

The Institute of Measurement and Control: Dr D. McLean, of Loughborough University, has been made president in succession to Mr A. E. Parritt.

Sun Life Assurance Society: Mr M. J. Turner has been appointed general manager (life and pension).

Adidas: Mr Horst Dassler has been made chairman of the managing board following the death of his mother Mrs Kaethe Dassler.

UKF Fertilisers: Mr John Reidford has been appointed personnel director, succeeding Mr Hugh le Bouillier, who has retired.

Coopers & Lybrand: Mr Peter Allen has been made managing partner. Mr Brandon Gough has been appointed chairman of the Executive Committee of Coopers & Lybrand (International) for 1985. Mr Ian Hancock has been made chairman of the management consultancy arm and Mr. David Miller managing director.

East Lancashire Paper Group: Mr Bryan Morrill has been made a director. Mr Christopher Shaw is now executive chairman.

Arthur Guinness & Sons: Mr Thomas Ward has been appointed to the board.

Swansea BUSHY CITY

Send for the Swansea BUSINESS File giving your business requirements

Swansea Centre For Trade & Industry Dept: 11, Singleton Street, Swansea SA1 3QH



NatWest announces that with effect from Monday, 14th January, 1985, its Base Rate is increased from 10.50% to 12.00% per annum.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Beware the electronic burglar

The perpetrators of fraud on banks' computer systems - never acknowledged as existing on any large scale, and computer buffs who challenge the security codes of financial databases, as well as natural disasters are combining to provide new headaches for the computer dependent company of the 1980s.

In recent weeks much publicity has been given to the microcomputer users whose fascination for other computer systems has led them to attempt to penetrate the security of sensitive databases. These electronic burglars - now termed hackers - are the least harmful of the disasters which can befall the average computer system.

These computer whizz kids are usually not malicious, always leaving a calling-card evidence that they have broken the system's security, but nevertheless require the data processing manager in charge of the burgled computer to change codes and alter most of his security keys. So even when the motivation is fun the expense and the damage can be substantial.

The hackers have illustrated the vulnerability of some financial and banking computers. The data on these files is not only sensitive but is also electronic bank which can be robbed. A recent report in the magazine Banking Technology by security expert Vincent Gallo highlighted the banks' vulnerability. Banks have not recognized the

risks they are running, claimed the report. It concluded that it would take a gigantic fraud to bring widespread awareness of the risks to these computer networks. Most of the banks were inadequately protected.

The report concluded: "Such is the proliferation of microcomputers in the home, and the growth of computer studies at an early age in our schools, that we are creating a generation with the expertise to manipulate sophisticated computer systems."

"The attraction for the would-be criminal is that he or she may gain

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

inside knowledge enabling some loopholes in the system to be exploited or operate unseen at a considerable distance from the scene of the crime."

There is little doubt that large-scale electronic fraud would need inside assistance. It was to that end that Lloyd's of London launched a new electronic and computer crime programme. The underwriters had identified what they called "a weakness in the basic insurance cover purchased by bankers, leading to a potentially serious

exposure in the area of electronic operations."

The computer systems of the early 1970s the insurers had concluded, were secure because of the general lack of computer literacy. That is no longer the case. The new policy launched was to insure against unauthorised access to a terminal, fraudulent preparation of tapes, fraudulent preparation of computer programs and access to a bank's communication lines.

The persons who know the computer systems are therefore one of the potential weaknesses. However banks and other financial institutions which have been the subject of electronic fraud are reluctant to publicise their deficiencies.

Dr Kenneth Wong, a computer expert from BIS Applied Systems, has compiled case histories of 95 computer crimes in Britain. He says: "The majority of cases incurred losses of up to £10,000 and one or two isolated cases reaching amounts of £50,000 each. The average amount defrauded is around £31,000. The loss pattern is broadly similar to that experience in the USA where the average loss is £55,000 and the maximum reaches some £2 million. This would appear to suggest that UK losses would appear to be smaller than those in the USA. However, in the US, by law all financial institutions which have suffered from computer abuse must report their losses

to the federal authorities, and so the US cases are heavily weighted in the financial sector, which probably explains the bigger average loss.

Even at a more basic level the computer user is becoming increasingly vulnerable. The new Data Protection Act, which became law last year creating the Data Protection Registrar, will undoubtedly mean that computer systems will need to be given higher levels of security. Data which is not adequately protected could mean that the computer owner will become liable to prosecution.

But even the acts of God - explosions, lightning, fire, flood and the like - provide substantial problems for computer users. Valuable files and tapes could be destroyed in seconds. Computer users - must then have contingency plans.

Dr Wong has studied these vulnerable areas and says: "Approximately 10 cases a year of fire, explosion and arson involving computer installations in the UK came to our attention in the last few years."

Dr Wong has compiled a dossier containing 47 cases of fire, explosion and arson. According to Dr Wong: "Thirty per cent of the total were attributed to arson or bombing, rising to over 50 per cent for losses in excess of £50,000."

Such is the cost of computer power.

Women and the micro

From Professor D. W. Barrow, R. E. Crawford, P. F. Farrow, P. W. Garratt and W. Hall at the Department of Computer Studies, Southampton University.

Ada Countess Lovelace (1816-1852) is, ironically, considered to be the world's first programmer, but today woman's role in professional computing looks bleak.

The number of women entering computing courses at university level has steadily declined since 1981. Here at Southampton the computing courses prior to 1981 had 30-40 per cent female participants, but this has steadily declined and in 1983-84 it was below 10 per cent. National figures show the same trend: about 25 per cent female in 1981 down to approximately 18 per cent for 1983. It is of interest to note that the decline began a year after microcomputers were introduced into schools in 1980.

A recent report, Microcomputers in Education, from the Economic and Social Research Council severely criticised the mis-management of the introduction of the microcomputer into schools, in particular the "innovation without research". There appears to be an important psychological factor in the

LETTERS

attitude among girls that "computers are for boys", despite the fact that the ability of women on computing courses has always matched the men.

Wrong revolution

From Brian Treger, managing director, Simple Software, Havelock Road, Brighton, Sussex: The microcomputer "revolution" is such because of its flexibility and cheapness. Its flexibility allows vast numbers of applications packages to be produced for precise purposes, though not always for the machine that one has already. Its cheapness allows it to be adopted for a single, sometimes quite small application, and to be relatively expendable if that application can later be handled better with the software or peripherals available only on another machine.

Standardisation has its virtues, but setting up huge clusters of similar machines in education at this early stage effectively masks those important points. Government policy might be better directed at encouraging schools to consider what is the best value machine for each particular purpose. The use of a computer in a school is not necessarily to teach programming, any more than the use of a book is to teach reading.

Computer breaks

From J. T. Coulter, Herford Gardens, Harpenden, Hertfordshire: So an international trade union conference in Geneva suggests that limits are placed on the time workers spend at computer terminals. Why not introduce breaks that allow computers to be switched to some form of off-screen relaxation, which allows operators to switch off for an agreed time?

While it is hard to get children away from the television at home (no lack of attention or strain there) if and when schools are able to give children more and more access to computers and VDUs, the attention span will suffer unless something like the diversion described could be adopted.



H-P launch cash and carry micro

By David Guest

The computer industry's most fashionable operating system gets a shot in the arm this week with Hewlett-Packard's launch of a transportable micro-computer that runs Unix.

Unix has been highly regarded for several years as a possible means of creating a standard operating system for business microcomputers of different sizes and different provenance. But its appearance on fast, reliable business micros is a relatively recent event, and the new H-P system, called the Integral, it goes portable for the first time.

The Integral weighs 25lbs, three pounds lighter than the Osborne 1 which set the transportable trend. It offers the user a Motorola 68000 processor, 512K of RAM memory, 256K to house the Unix software, and another 32K to drive a 9-inch amber electro-luminescent flat screen.

Also included in the £5,450 package are a 710K floppy disk drive, an H-P Thinkjet printer and a professional keyboard. The company adds its own Personal Applications Manager software and throws in a windowing system of splitting the screen for good measure.

Hewlett-Packard says the Integral should appeal particularly to scientific and engineering users, but its potential as a business micro could prove to

be more significant. Unix has traditionally been a technician's tool, and H-P's greatest strength lies in the area of technical computing, but the signs are that mass acceptance of Unix as a commercial tool is very close.

The attractions of Unix as a standard operating system owe much to the fact that its development has not been driven by the market.

Unix has a great breadth of self-contained features, and it will support more than one user performing more than one simultaneous task on a relatively inexpensive computer. MSDOS, however, popularised as PC DOS on the IBM PC, is strictly a one-job-at-a-time system. But it isn't designed to be used by novices, and software houses have found that the development of programs to run under Unix is more difficult than they had anticipated.

H-P's plans for the Integral do not exclude the business community. It has available versions of the Multiman spreadsheet, the database language dBase III, and the word processor Memomaker to run on the machine.

Several portable computer makers have gone out of business in the last six months. But the Integral opens the door to a new market, and the reputation that H-P acquired as an innovator (for its touch-screen HP 150) may be strengthened by it.

IBM PC COMPLETE WITH 2.88MB DISK DRIVE, MONITOR, MOUSE, KEYBOARD, PRINTER ADAPTOR, DOS 2.11, MANUALS, ETC. £1500 MORSE COMPUTERS 78 High Holborn WC1 01-831 0644

Beat-the-cheat plan for High Street

Software packages might soon be labelled with a distinct six digit code that will make them easier to order, harder to pirate in bulk and will also form the basis for what is claimed will be the first accurate programs chart.

It is the idea of the Guild of Software Houses (GOSH) and Gallup, the poll organization. The concept, which includes both business and games software, is being touted round the major retailers to see if they will accept the principle and pay some of the start up costs. All now rests on whether the High Street stores will buy the code.

"From their point of view," says GOSH chairman Paul Duffy, "it will be easier to order a title using the code. It should also make it easier for software suppliers to avoid piracy."

Former Commodore head Jack Tramiel declared war on his old company last year by buying the ailing Atari computer company and

COMPUTER BRIEFING

slashing the prices of its home computers. He has started the new year with a new range of machines to go with it.

Mr Tramiel still hopes to improve on the business machine company he built, but the strategy now involves the promotion of six new machines - all with specifications and prices that could prove to be Commodore killers. The two top-of-the-line machines could also be aimed at taking a chunk of Apple's market - both use the 68000 processor used in the Apple Macintosh and offer much the same kind of look and style.

The other four are based on the design introduced in 1983. These machines will be competitively priced and are obviously designed at providing a reason for buying the Commodore 64 and new Commodore 16 micros.

Commodore has launched two new machines of its own: the C128, a Commodore 64-compatible with more memory and the ability to use the CP/M business operating system and a portable battery-operated computer with built-in software.

Flexi-tests The City and Guilds of London Institute is launching a major new initiative in information technology qualifications under the title of the "725 information technology". The institute will be providing a full range of syllabuses and certification in the three disciplines of programming and software,

electronics and hardware, and computer operations and applications. This is a major breakthrough in bringing together the hardware, software and applications disciplines into a co-ordinated structure.

"What we've done is draw up a comprehensive scheme for the computer practitioner at all levels from operator through to higher technician," says Peter Nestle, the institute's researcher with the chief responsibility for the 725. "We recognize that in both industry and commerce there are now vast numbers of people working with computers and IT. Some of them will be technical specialists but others will only be occasional users. What we've tried to do is accommodate all these various needs in a flexible way."

Helping Ethiopians Chetanisoft, producers of home computer games, are planning to devote profit from new game Bear George - an arcade style game running on either Spectrum or Commodore 64 - to the Save the Children Ethiopian appeal. They will donate 50p for each cassette sold, which they claim is the profit on the games, selling at £6.95.

French leave France has thrown a bombshell into the 40-nation inter-governmental Bureau for Informatics, formed to help the Third World, by withdrawing from the Rome-based organization. The French and Mexicans opened a 22 per cent budget increase - from \$18m in the two years 1983-84 to \$40m for 1985-86. France had paid 30 per cent of the budget. The organisation intends to maintain its level of work in the next two years and is not changing the programme.

France's withdrawal leaves Italy with a head start for promoting its wares in the developing world. Italian was also adopted as an additional official language at last month's assembly.

UK Events What is artificial intelligence? (ten weekly sessions) City University, London from today (01 253 3498). Which Computer? NEC, Birmingham, today until Friday (01 891 5051). High Technology & Computers Education, London, January 15-16 (01 930 1612). Aircol & Sirus Computer Show, Kensington Town Hall, London, February 5-7 (01241 2354). International Trade Show for Home Computers, Software, LET, Olympia, London, February 17-19 (0183 777000). International Computer Graphics User, Barbican, London, February 19-21 (01 486 1951).

Which and where

The Which Computer Show opens today at National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham and continues until Friday. The 350 exhibitors will include Commodore, which will be previewing its IBM-compatible business micro and Oberon International, with the innovative Omni-Reader - a £400 optical character reader that can be added to a micro to read most popular typefaces.

Computer art Today also sees the start of a one-man computer art show by Jeremy Gardiner in Jordan Place off Fulham Broadway, West London, while the RCA has a computer art exhibition running until January 18. Jeremy Gardiner's pictures are painted in acrylics by himself in the

conventional way, but he uses a computer extensively in the planning and design of the pictures, experimenting with images, transforming them, and making a 22 per cent before transferring the work to paint. His aim is to "take the language of computers, vector drawing, pixels and so forth, and bring it into painting."

He is also working on an animated film and is currently based at the new Visual Language Workshop at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on a Harkness Fellowship. The exhibition will run until February 4.

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Overseas

Computer Exhibition - Computer Thai, Bangkok, Thailand, January 32-26. International Microcomputer Fair, Frankfurt, Germany, January 29-February 3. Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico, February 25-28. Compiled by Personal Computer News.

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ATHLETICS

London city mile may provide Moorcroft with a new goal

By Pat Butcher

David Moorcroft, one of Britain's most successful athletes of the last decade, may never be able to race again at 5,000 metres, the distance at which he holds the world record of 13 min 00.41 sec. The pelvic disorder which blighted Moorcroft's Olympic season last year and caused him to finish almost a lap behind Said Aouita of Morocco in Los Angeles, has still barely responded to treatment five months later.

Moorcroft, now 31, was in London yesterday as athletics advisor to the Peugeot Talbot group, who are putting £1.25 million into the sport in the next five years. But it was evident that Moorcroft would forsake his consultancy for the assurance of being able to run again, even the mile or so jog that he has been denied since the Olympic Games.

In an evident nod to his benefactors yesterday, he said that the consultancy will help fill the gap in his life. You don't know how much athletics means to you until you are out of it. But he has the slight hope that a bone scan a month ago, which showed a possible infection, might prove his salvation.

"At least it's something definite, which the doctors had never noticed before. They're quite excited about it, and after a month of antibiotics, I've felt better than I have in ages."

So the 1978 Commonwealth gold and European bronze medals winner at 5,000 metres, and the European 5,000 metres medal winner in 1982 (the year of his world record), and one of the most honest people in British athletics, may yet survive to join the ranks of road runners, right up to marathon level.

As a youngster in the Coventry Godiva club when Basil Heatley, Brian Kilby and Bill Adcock were kings of British roads, it would be a more fitting career epitaph. As Moorcroft put it, "I'd like to retire when I want to retire."

Hope for athlete

Rabat (Reuters) - Newel El Moutawakel of Morocco, who won an Olympic gold medal in the 400 metres hurdles in Los Angeles, is hoping to make a full recovery from a knee operation. A French surgeon said that she would be able to resume training after a period of rehabilitation.

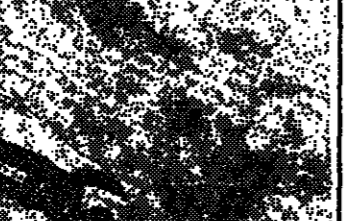
China's choice

Peking (Reuters) - China will send 63 athletes to compete in the inaugural Australia Games, which open in Melbourne on January 26, the All-China Sports Federation said yesterday. They will include the national men's and women's basketball teams and the national diving and water polo teams.

Norman tipped for post

The British Athletics Promotion Unit, a hybrid of the messy alliance between the British Athletic Board and its most prominent federation member, the Amateur Athletic Association, is preparing to advertise for a promotions officer at a salary of "around £20,000 per year", according to the Board secretary, Nigel Cooper (Pat Butcher writes). The decision was taken at the Board's annual meeting in Birmingham, after the Conford Games at the weekend.

SKING



Miss Magoni speeds to a brave victory

Miss Magoni conquers difficult conditions

Princeton, West Germany (Reuters) - Paolina Magoni, the Italian teenager, braved one of the toughest mountain slopes of the World Cup season to win the women's slalom yesterday. Her best result since her surprising Olympic victory last year. Despite treacherous conditions which saw only 19 of the 83 starters finish, Miss Magoni, aged 19, clocked the best time on both legs for her first World Cup victory. Her total time of 1min 47.18sec put her more than a second ahead of Brigitte Oerli, of Switzerland (1:48.50), and another Italian, Daniela Zini (1:49.18).

Miss Magoni was tied in first place with the current World Cup champion, Erika Hess, on 30.95sec after the opening leg, but the Swiss girl missed a gate near the bottom of the final leg and crashed out.

A delighted Miss Magoni, who proved here that her Olympic victory in Sarajevo was no fluke, said: "It was a very difficult slope, but that suits the Italians. We always do well when conditions are tough."

Miss Oerli, whose second place look her to the top of the overall World Cup standings, level with her compatriot, Nichola Fignini, on 165 points, said the course was as tough as at Maribor, Yugoslavia, when there were also a large number of non-finishers.

Women's Slalom: 1. P Magoni (G), 1min 47.18; 2. B Oerli (S), 1:48.50; 3. D Zini (I), 1:49.18; 4. G Oerli (S), 1:50.28; 5. C Schmeider (A), 1:50.29; 6. C Schmeider (A), 1:50.29; 7. B Fernandez-Ochoa (S), 1:51.07; 8. B Bense (F), 1:51.07; 9. E Hutter (A), 1:52.72; 10. E Hutter (A), 1:52.72; 11. A Zampieri (I), 1:53.74; 12. C Bore (A), 1:53.74; 13. C Bore (A), 1:53.74; 14. C Bore (A), 1:53.74; 15. C Bore (A), 1:53.74.

Overall Standings: 1. M Fignini (S), 165; 2. E Hess (S), 156; 3. K Oerli (S), 147; 4. E Hess (S), 138; 5. C Schmeider (A), 129; 6. C Schmeider (A), 120; 7. C Schmeider (A), 111; 8. C Schmeider (A), 102; 9. C Schmeider (A), 93; 10. C Schmeider (A), 84; 11. C Schmeider (A), 75; 12. C Schmeider (A), 66; 13. C Schmeider (A), 57; 14. C Schmeider (A), 48; 15. C Schmeider (A), 39.

RUGBY UNION: FRANCE FIGHT TO KEEP THEIR SATURDAY DATE WITH WALES



A Parisian carpet of unwelcoming snow greets Henri Chavaon, the head groundsman, at the Parc des Princes yesterday

Mayor of Paris lends weight to save pitch

Paris (AFP) - Albert Ferrasse, the French Rugby Federation president, will decide tomorrow if Saturday's five nations match with Wales can go ahead. The Parc des Princes was yesterday cleared of snow and covered. A series of fogs blowing hot air underneath the covers are helping to thaw the pitch.

Jacques Chirac, the manager of Paris, has joined the fight to save the match, saying that everything will be done to get the pitch fit for the game. Because of the weather, Saturday's B international between Scotland and France has been transferred from Aberdeen to Murrayfield (Ian McLauchlan writes). The kick-off will be 2.15. Scotland are expected to play as selected, although Paul Hogarth (injured elbow) and Iwan Tukalo (dead leg) did not complete Sunday's squad outing.

The schools who were defeated by North Berwick High School in the semi-final and final of the Bank of Scotland Schools Cup last season. Portobello High School and Marr College respectively, are drawn against each other in this year's quarter-final. Galashiels Academy meet Earlston High School in a Border derby.

DRAW: Portobello HS v Marr College; Oban HS v Dumblane HS; St Aloysius College v Kilwinning Academy; Galashiels Academy v Earlston HS. Ties to be played by February 9.

CLUB MATCH: Cancelled: Plymouth Albion v HOSPITALS' CUP: First round: Postponed: London v St Bartholomew's.

RUGBY LEAGUE

French rides off on his white steed to defend his cause

By Keith Macklin

Rugby Union. They could see some and realize that schoolboys are better taught by schoolmasters who have experience of rugby than school teachers. They could place a legal injunction on him and explain their decision to a judge.

The matter blew up last month when French was told by the county committee that the county no longer take his place on the schools committee or take part in coaching the Lancashire schools team. Although no specific reasons were given, French does not doubt that his role as the BBC's Rugby League commentator and a former Rugby League international player who has introduced the 13-a-side game at his St Helens school, Cowley, were prime causes of the decision.

John Dewhurst, the secretary of Lancashire Schools Rugby Union committee, confirmed rumours that suggested that French's role should be postponed because of the national-wide attention it will cause, and the probable embarrassment to the Rugby Union hierarchy. He had immediately turned down the suggestion.

Many members of the Lancashire schools committee support the Ray French viewpoint, and a straw poll of players and officials throughout the North of England has indicated that they stand not merely in favour. It will be a surprise if the schools committee meeting does not strongly recommend a law change.

BOXING

World title bout is sponsored

U-Bix Copiers will sponsor Saturday's world welterweight title contest in Birmingham between Don Curry and Colin Jones. "It is a major breakthrough to get such a company involved", the promoter Frank Warren said yesterday.

U-Bix have come into professional boxing after years of sponsoring major athletics. They have just withdrawn from supporting the AAA championships. Saturday's contest is due to be transmitted worldwide and is expected to attract an audience larger than the current ITV record of 11.8 million, which stands, surprisingly, to the Joe Bugner v Mervyn Frazier heavyweight bout in June 1983.

Big companies have been slow to sponsor professional boxing, despite the fact that the amateur side of the sport has had considerable help from Vimpsey's for several years. "The heavyweights have been slow because of the Hollywood image that has been associated with professional boxing", Warren said.

IN BRIEF

Athletes are overtaken by comedian

Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson have been overtaken by the comedian, Alan Smitly, in a £500,000 bid to persuade more youngsters to take up sport.

The two Olympic champions and other British sports stars were not considered the right match for the Tynes best-of-three tournament at Darlington IBC yesterday.

The Council and the breakfast food firm Westab, will share the costs of the campaign, which will encourage participation by 13-24 year olds.

It was his biggest ever campaign. We want to young people away from the television, off the street corners and into sport. "With high youth unemployment, sport can offer a credible and constructive alternative."

● The Irish featherweight Paul Fitzgerald, who retired after failing to win a medal at the Olympic Games, has been persuaded to change his mind and will be in the team against Wales at Cork on January 24. Brian Joyce, the younger brother of the light-middleweight champion, makes his international debut at Wexford.

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England captain has to withdraw

Britain's Olympic captain Brian Schumacher, has withdrawn from England's international against Scotland in Dundee on Thursday because he must go to the Falklands on naval duty. The ABA middleweight champion is replaced by Michael Christie of the famous Coventry boxing family.

The three boxers making their full international debuts for England are the light flyweight, Paul Lally (Salisbury ABC), the light welterweight, Dean Miller (Weymouth ABC) and the heavyweight, Manny Burgo (Blyth Town).

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Swinton Rugby League club have announced a shirt sponsorship deal with Tameside Travel. The backing is worth a total of £11,000 until the end of next season.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASKETBALL, HANDBALL, and ICE HOCKEY, listing various international and national league results.

Table with columns for EASTERN CONFERENCE and WESTERN CONFERENCE, listing American football results.

Table with columns for FOOTBALL, listing various national and international football matches.

Table with columns for TENNIS, listing various tennis matches and tournaments.

Table with columns for CRICKET, listing various cricket matches and tournaments.

Table with columns for RUGBY UNION, listing various rugby union matches.

Table with columns for JUDO, listing various judo matches and tournaments.

SQUASH RACKETS

Rivals pool talents to win title

By Colin McQuillan

The fortunes of Alison Cumings and Nicky Spurgeon have inextricably joined since their Surrey school days. Yesterday at South Devon they put aside their recent rivalry in competing for singles titles when they won their second successive Powertrain British Doubles championship. They beat the reigning Lancashire pair, Karen Butterworth and Tracy Cuncliffe, 15-6, 16-17, 15-10, 15-7 in 66 minutes.

Miss Spurgeon took the British under-23 championship from Miss Cumings late last year, but lost to her in the British closed semi-finals shortly before Christmas.

Karen Butterworth, a stalwart of club competition and a successful sports clothes designer, is ranked fifteenth in England. Her young partner is regarded as potentially the best junior on the women's scene for some years. Miss Cumings and Miss Spurgeon are bettered only by the Guernsey girls, Lisa Opie and Martine Le Moignan, in domestic singles listings, and may not settle for that situation much longer. Last year's success was, strangely, their first venture into the four-handed version of the game they learnt together at a small private club in Llanelli, Carmarthen.

They say they have not been on court together other than in a deeply antagonistic sense since the 1984 Powertrain final. There were moments yesterday when misunderstandings illustrated the separation.

Miss Butterworth and Miss Cumings resisted Miss Spurgeon and Miss Cumings patiently and intelligently, easing the second game away from them by a single point, but the steady pressure of Miss Cumings in the backhand court and an untidy mix of brilliance and inattention from Miss Spurgeon on the forehand was too much for them.

● Bournemouth's full back, Evarald La Ronda, is joining Peterborough United on a month's loan.

Rex Bellamy looks at the light hearted side of doubles

Where Euclid's angles are transformed into curves

The publicity granted to this or that sport often seems to depend on how many people watch it, rather than how many play it. This debatable paradox explains why sporting scribes devote more attention to tennis than to Britain's most popular rackets games, badminton and squash. The most popular, that is, among those who would rather sweat than sit.

The walls give squash a geometric range that is almost Euclidean; and every player's objective is a ball-burial in the nick between walls and floor. Badminton has scored heavily, though, because the net reduces traffic hazards and permits more scope for the sick reprieve of doubles.

The American version of squash has always fostered doubles - on roomy, custom-built courts. Britain has to make do with singles court and American rules. But the doubles game has taken root at club level, the women have run an international championship since 1957, and the second national championships have just tempted the upper crust to spend a long weekend at the South Marston Country Club in Swindon's hinterland.

Slowing down for the horses on the club's peripheral lanes, one savoured scattered memories of three doubles matches. The first was in the early days of the Times Squash Club when nobody knew what was happening, even in singles. The second was on a genuine doubles court somewhere in Ohio.

The third was at Richmond, where one of my playmates included a man called Michael Edwards, who had something to do with industrial management - in those days, cars. This slim chap was surprising. One expected the overt toughness of a swashbuckling adventurer but his game was all neatly measured deliberation. He served so carefully that I assumed he used calipers when practising.

These baffling excursions into doubles were a preparation, of sorts, for the engaging spectacle at South Marston. One says "of sorts" because my kind of doubles raised images of hockey players hunking away in a loose scrum. Folk-dod legs were commonplace. The South Marston

TENNIS

Second title in a week for Becker

Portland, Oregon (AFP) - Boris Becker, of West Germany, recent winner of the new Belgian-American Young Masters Championships, won the invitation tournament here when he defeated Mel Purcell, 6-4, 6-4. The 26-year-old American was always trailing to Becker, aged 17, who had beaten the Swedish Davis Cup player and former junior world champion Stefan Edberg to claim the under-21 title in Birmingham last week.

First prize was worth \$10,000 to Becker, the top-ranked player in West Germany and a member of the West German Davis Cup team. Purcell received \$6,000. In the women's final, Julie Grummel defeated her younger sister, Jojo, 7-5, 7-5.

In Washington Martina Navratilova, the top seed, and the fourth seed Manuela Maleeva, of Bulgaria, advanced to the finals of the \$150,000 women's indoor championships. Miss Navratilova needed only 46 minutes to beat her fellow-American Zina Garrison, 6-1, 6-2, while Miss Maleeva beat Kathy Rinaldi, also of the United States, 7-6, 6-1.

Miss Garrison, who had played Miss Navratilova on eight previous occasions without winning a set, tried to change her strategy from earlier matches in the week by playing a serve and volley game, only to commit numerous unforced errors during the 16-minute first set. She was passed every time she rushed the net. Miss Garrison won the first game of the second set but Miss Navratilova soon recovered with an assortment of drop shots and serve and volleys.

"Tonight I felt like my serve court was a trap. I was trying to get closer to her seventh triumph in the event. "Even when I thought my serve was going out it was in deep and when you have sets like that you know you're playing well." It had taken her only 48 minutes to win the 133rd match of her last 135.

Becker always in front

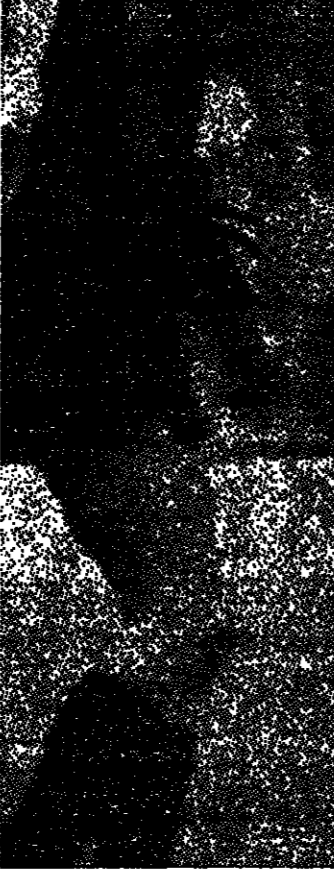


FOOTBALL: UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDS MIDWEEK CUP TIES

Burton and Leicester are sent to Coventry

By Clive White

Football put on a brave face as yesterday's and most of today's programmes succumbed to the freezing conditions. Most matches were put back 48 hours in the hope of the weather relenting and the Burton Albion v Leicester City FA Cup third round rematch, due to be played yesterday, had to be moved to another stadium because of the weather. Burton Albion v Leicester City FA Cup third round rematch, due to be played yesterday, had to be moved to another stadium because of the weather. Burton Albion v Leicester City FA Cup third round rematch, due to be played yesterday, had to be moved to another stadium because of the weather.



Sonness on the ball for Sampdoria against Atalanta in a match that ended 0-0.

Cheers as Verona fall

The loudest cheer to be heard at the Olympic Stadium in Rome on Sunday came with the news that little Avellino had scored their second, winning goal against the leaders, Verona. Without both their forwards, Elkjaer (still unfit) and Galderisi (suspended), Verona failed after a series of draws.



Verona, who had already put their winger against the chief challengers, Torino, a strange, messy affair by Pruzzo, after Martina had rushed out of goal on the slippery pitch and completely missed the ball. "You can't make such mistakes at this level", Gid Raice, Torino's manager, told me sadly afterwards.

surprisingly good form of the first half of the season. Usually, the huge Bayern chemicals firm pours its wealth into its other club, Bayer Leverkusen, but Uerdingen, who not long ago went fruitlessly, cap in hand, to the local municipality, have far outshone them this season.

Watford have postponed their Milk Cup tie until tomorrow, while Ipswich have put their tie back more realistically, to Monday after five inches of snow fell at Portman Road. There is no truth in the rumour that Queen's Park Rangers have asked Ipswich if they would like to move the tie to their playable plastic pitch at Loftus Road. Ipswich would not be amused. Indeed they might be politely described as fed up, what with the new lawns in the main stand frozen as well.

Watson verdict expected today. Norwich City hope to know by tonight if their captain, Dave Watson, will be ruled out for days or for weeks with a knee injury. Watson was stretched off in the second half of Saturday's match against Southampton and it was at first feared that he had damaged knee ligaments.

Dalglish is ruled out. Kenny Dalglish, given a three-month suspension by UEFA after being sent off in the European Cup tie at Benfica, will miss tomorrow's European Super Cup final against Juventus in Italy. The Scottish international will be allowed to count the meeting of European Cup holders and C Wingers' Cup holders as one of his banned games. Walsh is the likely replacement for Dalglish.

FA reject claim. The Football Association have rejected Fulham's £1 million claim for compensation, following the crowd incidents in their game with Derby County at the end of the 1982-83 season. Fulham are angry at last week's FA decision to order Leicester City and Burton Albion to repay their Cup-tie after a missile thrown from the crowd struck Burton's goalkeeper, Paul Evans.

Table with 3 columns: Division, Team, and Fixture. Includes sections for First Division, Second Division, Third Division, and Southern Premier.

Table with 3 columns: Division, Team, and Fixture. Includes sections for Fourth Division, Scottish Premier, and Scottish First.

FA Trophy draw. All fixtures subject to postponement because of the weather. Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. Milk Cup Fourth round. Postponed: Ipswich v Queen's Park Rangers; Watford v Sunderland.

Today's fixtures. All fixtures subject to postponement because of the weather. Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. Milk Cup Fourth round. Postponed: Ipswich v Queen's Park Rangers; Watford v Sunderland.

Wadkins triumphs over old rival

From John Ballantine Palm Springs

Critics of the show business aspect of the Bob Hope Desert Classic, with its movie stars, singers, baseball players and retired amateur tycoons, hackers to a man could have no complaints about the finish, in which Lanny Wadkins beat his 1983 Ryder Cup partner, Craig Stadler, at the fifth extra hole of sudden death with a curling 20-foot birdie putt for a two.

Stadler, who had led overnight by one from his teammate atop the first nine holes of the fifth and final round like a baseball player and retiree, was the second with a wedge to within five feet, an eagle at the 517-yard fifth with a chip in from 40 feet, a nine-iron into the hole at the seventh. At this point he had already broken Bruce Lietzke's four-year-old record of 25 under par. In the end, they both broke by two.

Stadler said: "We both holed plenty of putts, me at the start and Lanny at the end." Wadkins, who had four birdies in his outward 72, to stay within two strokes of the charging best, was four behind when he began his own revival with an eagle at the 14th, with a four-wood off the tee and another to within three feet.

He birdied the last three holes, from 15 feet and 10 feet and by hitting a two-iron into the middle of the last green, for a 65 that caught Stadler's 66 at 333.

So they were off again for the fourth play-off here in four years. And what a sudden death it turned out to be, between two of the fastest players in the world. In the first extra hole, the 163-yard 15th, Wadkins, who won the toss, hit the green with a six-iron. From 30 feet he left his birdie putt a foot short.

Wadkins, having only to hit the cup to stay in the play-off, had a wedge and plugging his ball into the bunker at the back. He exploded this brute out to within four feet and kept the match alive.

After par fours at the 16th both made mistakes after good drives at the 398-yard 17th. Stadler under-clubbing with a nine-iron and Wadkins, having only to hit the cup to stay in the play-off, had a wedge and plugging his ball into the bunker at the back. He exploded this brute out to within four feet and kept the match alive.

It was a putt he just had to hole and again he did the unexpected. Wadkins missed and back they went to the 15th. Both took six-irons and Wadkins' ball ran 20 feet past. He sank the putt that put his pal out of his feet-aching misery.

McEnroe teaches his old foe a lesson in Masters final

New York (Reuters)

John McEnroe gave a superb performance in his second consecutive victory in the Masters final over Ivan Lendl on Sunday, but he still feels that he can play better. "Concentration level, physical condition, careless shots. I've got to work on all of those," he said after taking 11 games in a row from Lendl as he won his 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory in Madison Square Garden.

Even McEnroe, an inveterate perfectionist, conceded he had rarely, if ever, played better. "I was in a great mood, I was in a great mood, I was in a great mood," he said after winning consecutive games from 4-5 in the opening set to 2-0 in the third. His performance was overshadowed perhaps only by his straight-sets demolition of Jimmy Connors in last year's Wimbledon final. McEnroe said that he still hangs in there for money, but including the French Open, where he lost in the final to Lendl last year after winning the first two sets.

He also thinks that it is time he got more respect. "I would like to have more respect than I get," he said.

Chance for Bates to press claim

Jeremy Bates, of Surrey, gets the chance to stress his claim for a place in Britain's Davis Cup team when he defends his Satellite tennis title over the next five weeks.

Bates, who has won the Satellite title over the next five weeks, Bates is seeded second behind the New Zealanders, Bruce Dorian for the first time in the final to Lendl last year after winning the first two sets.

He also thinks that it is time he got more respect. "I would like to have more respect than I get," he said.

European indoor championship forced to accept second best King's Cup knows its place

The European men's indoor team championship for the King's Cup, which is being contested in Essex this week, was conceived as an indoor equivalent of the world team championship for the Davis Cup. It never attained that status, however, when the event's place in the game, even its survival, has been in doubt. On both counts the King's Cup now looks more secure.

The original trophy, the King Gustav V of Sweden Cup, was donated in 1936 but was held by Germany when the Second World War broke out and was never seen again. King Gustav VI gave a second trophy in 1952. This week's championship is the 36th. The original host nation, Sweden, has thereupon been replaced by Denmark, who has had six successes, and Britain, Czechoslovakia and Germany four each.

may not be a player's terminal ambition but it can obviously be a step in the right direction. The implications of players' records can be misleading because the leading men are not always available and, as a consequence of changes in the format, the number of ties played every year has varied. But Britain's most successful player, in terms of his win-loss percentage, has been Mike Sangster, Mark Cox and Buster Mottram, who have played most matches: 57 each.

Table titled 'BRITISH PLAYING RECORDS' showing names, wins, doubles, and total points for various players like Mike Sangster, Buster Mottram, etc.

England visit USSR. England will visit the Soviet Union for an international match on March 26, 1985. They were last there in 1973, winning 2-1 in Moscow.

Scifo wins award. Middleberke (Rueter) - Enzo Scifo, the Anderlecht midfielder, has won Belgium's 1984 Footballer of the Year award.

RACING: ENGLISH AND IRISH MEETINGS HIT. Soba, seen here with David Nicholls, her regular jockey, won 13 races in her career, including the Stewards' Cup and King George Stakes, both at Goodwood.

Soba, seen here with David Nicholls, her regular jockey, won 13 races in her career, including the Stewards' Cup and King George Stakes, both at Goodwood.

Moorhouse out to erase bad memories

Adrian Moorhouse can begin to erase an unhappy 1984 when he swims for England in the Netherlands later this month.

The European 200 metres breaststroke champion, who performed disappointingly in the Olympic Games last year and in Norway last month, in a six-strong Yorkshire Bar squad for the 22-nation Speedo meet at Amersfoort from January 25 to 27.

Fears that he might be suffering from a lack of confidence have been ruled out. "My swimming is coming on well and, given a couple of weeks' training, I should be okay", he said.

Prospects poor for resumption. The freeze continues to hit British racing with the prospects of any meeting taking place this week slim. Today's two meetings at Sedgfield and Worcester were called off early yesterday and tomorrow's Windsor meeting was abandoned after a 12.30 inspection.

Prospects are bleak for tomorrow's other scheduled meeting at Market Rasen, where there is three inches of snow on the course and frost in the ground. An inspection will be held there at 9.0 am today.

John Brockbank, the Cumbric permit holder, is highly optimistic that A Kinsman, the winner of last year's San Alliance Chase, can re-establish himself as a leading contender for this year's Chesham Gold Cup (John Karter writes).

Wing And A Prayer, who will try to become the first four-year-old to win the Schweppes Gold Trophy, was the subject of a major anti-post-gamble for next month's big Newbury handicap.

WARNING Ban on Shooting of Birds. The Secretary of State for the Environment has made an order prohibiting the shooting in England and Wales of wild ducks and wild geese (excluding capercaillie) listed on Schedule 2 Part 1 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 from 00.01am on Wednesday 16th January 1985 for a period of 14 days.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Legal Appointments

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Please only contact us if you are applying for the above position.

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Large City firm practising in all branches of shipping law seeks two solicitors with 1-3 years post-qualification experience (or Barristers of 3-4 years call wishing to transfer) to work as assistants to partners.

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One of the posts requires command of the French language and both require commercial litigation experience, but not necessarily in the shipping field.

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In addition to a sound grasp of the law successful candidates will be able to demonstrate a positive approach to solving the problems which arise in the property field and will have the potential to contribute to the continuing progress of the firm in this area.

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Applications with full CVs to John Hare FCIS, Partnership Secretary Nabarro Nathanson, 76 Jermya Street, London SW1Y 6NR.

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Ref: A/388

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Ref: A/375

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Ref: A/224

Application forms and job descriptions from the Personnel Division Room 1 Brent Town Hall Annex, Kings Drive, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9BP, returnable 8th February 1985, telephone 01-903 0371 (24-hour Ansafone service). Reference numbers must be quoted.

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Forms from Head of Personnel Services, Municipal Offices, Twickenham TW1 3AA (01-891 1411 Ext.228), returnable by 8 February 1985.

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Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1
6.00 Ceefax AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins. Also available to viewers with television sets without the teletext facility.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Salina Scott. News from Debbie Fitz at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines at the quarter hours and at 8.58, sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. Plus a review of the morning newspapers by Doreen Wells; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening advice, 'Phone-in; and Glynis Christian's cookery hints. The guest Billy Connolly.
8.00 Ceefax. 10.30 Play School, presented by Stuart Bradley (1.10.85) Ceefax.
12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Frances Cowdelle. The weather prospects come from Bill Watters. 12.57 Regional News (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One Marion Foster learns about the twilight world of espionage from the British spy James Bond and Lady Brenda-Powell talks about the 75 year old Girl Guides Association. 1.45 Hockey County. A Sea View programme (1).
2.00 Can You Avoid Cancer? The second programme of five presented by Dr Michael O'Connell on how to reduce the risks of contracting the deadly disease (1). 2.25 Ceefax. 3.48 Regional news (not London).
3.50 Play School, presented by Sheelagh Gilbey. 4.10 Dastardly and Muttley (1). 4.20 Jackanory. Griff Rhys Jones reads part one of The Church Mouse, by Graham Oakley.
4.30 Wildtrack, presented by Sue Lawley and Michael Jordan. There is a film of black grey squirrels, black red deer, a black fox and a white robin. 4.55 John Craven's Newsround. 5.05 The Record Breakers presented by Roy Castle, Fiona Kennedy and Norris McWhirter.
6.00 News with Sue Lawley and Nicola Whitell.
6.30 London Plus.
6.55 Cartoon. Tom and Jerry.
7.00 Wildlife on One: Roadrunner - Clown of the Desert. Film of the bird that is also a famous cartoon character - a species of cuckoo that can kill snakes and lizards and survive the fierce heat of the Arizona desert (Ceefax).
7.25 Film: Killer On Board (1973). A made-for-television thriller about a cruise liner whose passengers and crew are struck down by a deadly virus. Starring Claude Akins, Patty Duke Astin, Jane Seymour and George Hamilton. Directed by Philip Leacock.
8.00 News with John Humphrys.
8.25 Play: Bird Fancier, by Mal Middleton. A comedy, starring Michael Elphick as Joe Diamond, the owner of an almost unbeatable racing pigeon. Joe is married but finds time to console the lonely wives of other pigeon fanciers. Directed by Bill Hays. (See Choice).
10.25 Loose Ends. Light hearted quiz, chaired by Tim Brooke-Taylor. His panel includes comedians John Junor, Fern Britton, Nad Sherrin, Christopher Hughes, Carol Drinkwater and Jim Bowen.
10.55 International Tennis. The Volvo Masters from Madison Square Garden, New York. Commentators are Dan Maskell and Gerald Williams.
12.10 Weather.

TV-am
6.15 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Mick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.35 and 7.37; guest: Ben Cross, from 6.45; Ceefax at 6.50 and 8.25; Gordon Honeycombe at 7.15; Popeye cartoon at 7.25; pop music at 7.54; Jeni Barnett's postbag at 8.15; cockery hints from Sarah Brown at 9.05.
ITV LONDON
6.25 Thames news headlines. 9.30 For Schools: For the hard of hearing. 9.47 Maths: numbers. 9.58 How to move. 10.10 The Tors and fauna of a city. 10.37 The Brand family of Cole, in northern Germany. 11.02 Learning to read with Basil Brush. 11.15 Clearing. 11.32 Health Education. 11.49 How the milk is turned to cheese.
12.00 Cuckleshell Bay. Sea-side adventures of the Cuckle twins. For the very young. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets and puppets with rainbows. (1). 12.30 The Sultans.
1.00 News at One. 1.20 Thames news with Robin Houston. 1.50 James Shaw Investigates Death a la Carte (1).
2.30 Daytime. Sarah Kennedy chairs a studio discussion on a matter of topical importance. 3.00 The World of Sport. Presented by Fred Innes. The team captains, Faith Brown and Pat Murray, are joined by Cery Fletcher, Sharon Davies, Debbie Arnold and Alfred Marks.
3.25 Thames News headlines. 3.30 The Young Doctors.
4.00 Cuckleshell Bay. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 The Moomins. 4.20 News at Two. Serial about the pupils and staff of Fulley Comprehensive. 4.45 CBTV. News, views, ideas and interviews.
5.15 Emerald Farm. Jack Sugden is conspicuous by his absence from the village show. 5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news.
6.20 Help! Viv Taylor Gas with news of the Star Walk in Centre, an organisation in Hounslow where people with psychiatric problems can discuss them with trained staff and fellow sufferers.
6.30 Crossroads. Paul Ross is hurt by a remark made by Barbara Hunter about his marriage to Anna Redek.
6.55 Reporting London. Bill Wignora reports on the possible crisis facing the travel industry, and Graham Addicott examines the future of Hampstead Heath after the GLC is abolished and talks to Hampstead residents including Michael Foot and Bill Oddie.
7.30 Name That Tune. Fast moving musical quiz game.
8.00 Up the Elephant and Round the Castle. Comedy series starring Jim Davidson who, this week, temporarily exchanges his south London terrace house for a caravan on the Isle of Sheppey.
8.30 Fresh Fields. Splendid comedy with Anton Rodgers and Julia McKenzie as a comfortably off, middle-aged, married couple (Oracle) (1).
9.00 The Bill. Three young thugs call on an experienced petanque player when they discover a tin they cannot open - but the safecracker doesn't want to know (Oracle).
10.00 News at Ten.
10.30 The British Connection. Sir Alistair Burnet examines the special relationship between Britain and the United States. (Oracle) (see Choice).
11.30 Games, Grrrrs and Gerahwin. 11.30 Games, Grrrrs and Gerahwin. 11.30 Games, Grrrrs and Gerahwin.
12.15 Night Thoughts.



Michael Elphick and Rosemary Martin (BBC 1, 8.25pm)

BIRD FANCIER (BBC 1, 8.25pm). Mal Middleton's cautionary comedy about the arrogance of success and how it can cause a cropper when it is least expected. It is set in the pigeon fancy belt of Sheffield. Since, apparently, much money changes hands before the racing birds are set free in France and head for home, they land an interesting new meaning to the expression "having a flutter". And since the central character, owner of an infallible pigeon, is also unveiled as an enjoyer of other men's wives, there are opportunities galore (not one of them is wasted) to crack bar-room jokes about birds. "You've got to give it to Joe - he knows how to keep his birds happy", is just one that I select at random. The language is earthy, the settings

look and sound authentic, and the portrayal of the kinship between man and bird (the winged variety) shows that Mr Middleton has done his homework. What I find more difficult to swallow is the secondary plot about the kinship between man and the other kind of bird. If it is true, as they say, that there is no one like a Yorkshireman for keeping his nose out of other people's affairs, I would have thought that he would have been equally vigilant when it came to keeping his wife out of other men's beds.

CHOICE
There is a certain irony in the fact that the BRITISH CONNECTION (ITV, 10.30pm), Alastair Burnet's investigation into the inroads that Britain has made into American economic, professional, political and social life, had been scheduled to be screened as the American presidential election campaign neared its climax, but had to be put into cold storage because of a television company dispute. The message that comes over loud and clear from the British expatriates in the US involved in big business and interviewed by Mr Burnet, is that Britain has to get on with delivering the goods if it is going to stop the US regarding the world as one huge American supermarket. Fortunately, the rest of Mr Burnet's report is not as ingenious as his opening question leads us to fear it will be. "Although the Americans booted out the British 20 years ago, did we actually ever leave?"

Peter Davalle
Composer play the overture Portsmouth Point; Bournemouth SO under Burglund play the Violin Concerto (Haindel, violin); and Philharmonia under the composer play the suite from the Henry VIII.
10.00 Hoffmeister and Payer: Bournemouth Wind Chimes perform Hoffmeister's Serenata in B flat; and Payer's Sextet in E flat.
10.25 Mendelssohn and Schumann: BBC Concert Orchestra (under John Neschling) perform Mendelssohn's Pastoral 114, Op 51; and Schumann's Adient Hymn Op 71.1.
11.10 Voice, Oboe and Piano: Stephen Roberts, Malcolm Messiter and John Lenehan perform P Napier Miles's Four songs for voice and piano; Paderewski's No 15 and No. Fourteen (Zigzag); Three Songs. Plus songs by Greg.
12.05 BBC Welsh SO (under Bregid) perform Vaughan Williams' prelude Llangollen (AG 1); Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1.
1.05 Concert part two. Vaughan Williams's Symphony No 4.1.
1.40 Guitar Encores: Goran Solscher plays works by Fernando Sor (including No 15 and No. 10 Fantasia, Op 99).
2.15 The Italian Sky: Part one Recordings of Wolf's Italian Songs; for chamber orchestra; Liszt's Sonata in F minor; Mendelssohn's 'Ballad' Symphony; Liszt's 'Ballad' in A-flat, Op 10, No 3; Liszt's 'Ballad' in A-flat, Op 10, No 3; Liszt's 'Ballad' in A-flat, Op 10, No 3.
4.00 The Concert: Concert and Piano: Lynda Russell, David Campbell and Graham Johnson perform Franz Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor; Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor; Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor; Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: another of Richard Graves's selections.1.
6.30 Libre Vermet: Concert performance from the 14th century manuscript at Montserrat, near Barcelona.1.
7.10 Talk: The subject: The Turk and his Dog. The speaker: Idris Fari.
7.30 Concert: BBC Philharmonic Orchestra (under Baric), with Aldo Benini (viola) and New Zealand Singers. Part one: Schubert's Du bist die Lili; An die Lili; Schubert's Du bist die Lili; An die Lili.
8.00 The writer Mario Vargas Llosa explains why he turned down the chance to become prime minister of Peru. He also discusses his literary life. He talks to Graham Fawcett.
8.30 Concert part two. Berio's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra; Górecki's Sinfonia Concertante; Weinberg's clarinet and Amphin String Quartet play the Allegro and Variations in E flat for clarinet and strings.1.
9.30 Economics, Then and Now: Sir Alec Cairncross talks to William Keegan.
10.00 Jazz Today: Charles Fox.

Radio 2
On medium wave, 1 also VHF stereo. News on the hour. Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. 4.00am Cuffin Berry including 5.02 Cricket. 6.00 Ray Moore including 6.02 Cricket. 8.05 Ken Bruce including 8.02 Cricket. 10.15 and 12.02 Cricket. 1.05 Sports Desk; David Jacobs. 1.20 Sports Desk including 1.22 Cricket. 2.00 Sports Desk including 2.02 Cricket. 3.30 Music All The Way. 4.00 David Hamilton including 4.02 5.05 Sports Desk. 6.00 News including 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (not only). 8.00 Soccer Soccer. 8.15 News. 8.30 News including 8.32 Cricket. 8.55 Ray Moore including 8.52 Cricket. 10.00 Where Were You in 1977? 10.00 Give Us a Crowd. 11.00 Brian Matthew presents Hour of Music. 11.02, 12.02 Cricket. 1.05 Sports Desk; David Jacobs. 1.20 Sports Desk including 1.22 Cricket. 2.00 Sports Desk including 2.02 Cricket. 3.30 Music All The Way. 4.00 David Hamilton including 4.02 5.05 Sports Desk. 6.00 News including 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (not only). 8.00 Soccer Soccer. 8.15 News. 8.30 News including 8.32 Cricket. 8.55 Ray Moore including 8.52 Cricket. 10.00 Where Were You in 1977? 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BBC advertising likely to follow major TV review

By David Hewson

The television industry expects the Government to use the present BBC licence settlement negotiations to pave the way for a sweeping revision of British television and a new Broadcasting Bill within two years.

The changes will include a new inquiry into the BBC's structure which will result in its being partly funded by advertising. In the meantime the BBC will be given a licence fee settlement several pounds short of its requested rise from £46 a year to £55.

Independent Television is likely to be punished financially, after two years of record profits, by having the Exchequer levy switched from profits to turnover, a move which will require primary legislation.

Both the BBC and the ITV companies are waiting for the announcement of the inquiry into the Corporation's funding, probably in March, before starting publicity campaigns against the changes: a decision one television executive described yesterday as "keeping our powder dry".

The break-up of the BBC's radio and television arms, and the possible sell-off of the more commercial parts of its empire, would be considered by the new inquiry. Television observers rule out the possibility of a protracted and lengthy report, such as that headed by Lord Annan, and believe the Government will choose instead a short investigation which could lead swiftly to legislation. The Cabinet is keenly aware of the

need to settle the BBC's future before the next election. The Home Office denied yesterday that it has told the BBC that its new licence fee will be no more than £58. A spokesman said that no hard discussions about the fee were likely until after the department had received the independent report on the BBC's efficiency commissioned from the accountants Peat Marwick.

A first draft of the report arrived at Broadcasting House two weeks ago, and BBC officials are still discussing it with the authors. The revised report will not go before the BBC's board of governors before the end of the month, and will then be handed to the Home Office.

The Home Office is in no hurry to announce a new licence fee, and could even take until April, after the expiry of the present fee, to reveal the new figure and the BBC inquiry.

Both BBC and ITV figures believe the Government can proceed with no sweeping change in the BBC without some form of inquiry, although no legislation would be required to enable it to carry advertising.

A far-ranging revision of BBC structure could place the Government in conflict with the Corporation's governors. Government sources acknowledge that, under its Charter, the Cabinet has no power to force the BBC to take advertising, or to direct it to follow a particular managerial course.

The Corporation's licence fee claim has met mixed reaction on both sides of the Commons, much to the surprise of some BBC officials.

The House is due to debate today a move proposed by Mr Joe Ashton, the Labour MP for Basildon, to introduce advertising in order to minimize the cost of the licence for the needs.

Leading article, page 13

£60m trains

British Rail is to spend £60 million on lightweight trains for cross-country services, bringing government-approved investment by BR in the past year to £300 million. The £60 million will buy 240 "Sprinter" diesel units.



Mr Ashton: BBC advertising will help the needy

Higher base rates may halt tax cuts

Continued from page 1

sterling index was down a net 0.5 at 70.8, again a record low. After yesterday's moves, the verdict of the foreign exchanges was "wait-and-see", with dealers stressing that sterling's fall in the afternoon was due to the strong dollar and not to any price worries, neither of which the Government can control.

The London stock market suffered its worst day ever in terms of the reduction in share value. The industrial ordinary index fell 19 points to 949.3, compared with an all-time peak of 983.1 struck only last week. The FT-SE index, which covers 100 leading shares, fell 28.1 to 1,220.5.

These figures would have been worse, but for the fact that shares in Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation, the shipping company, jumped from 325p to 383p on the news of the terms under which it is to take over Sterling Guarantee Trust. This is calculated to have softened the fall in the 30-share index by 4.8 points.

The sectors hardest hit by the sudden rise in interest rates were stores, tobacco, breweries and building. Dearer money will leave less cash in people's pockets to spend on consumer luxuries, and it is expected that many people will put off decisions on buying a new house.

The most worrying omen in yesterday's equity trading was the volume of selling. There was a total of 32.77 billion shares recorded, which ranks as a busy day. It suggests that some investors were taking the opportunity to get out altogether, raising the fear that this trend could turn into a torrent. Government stock fell by up to £2.

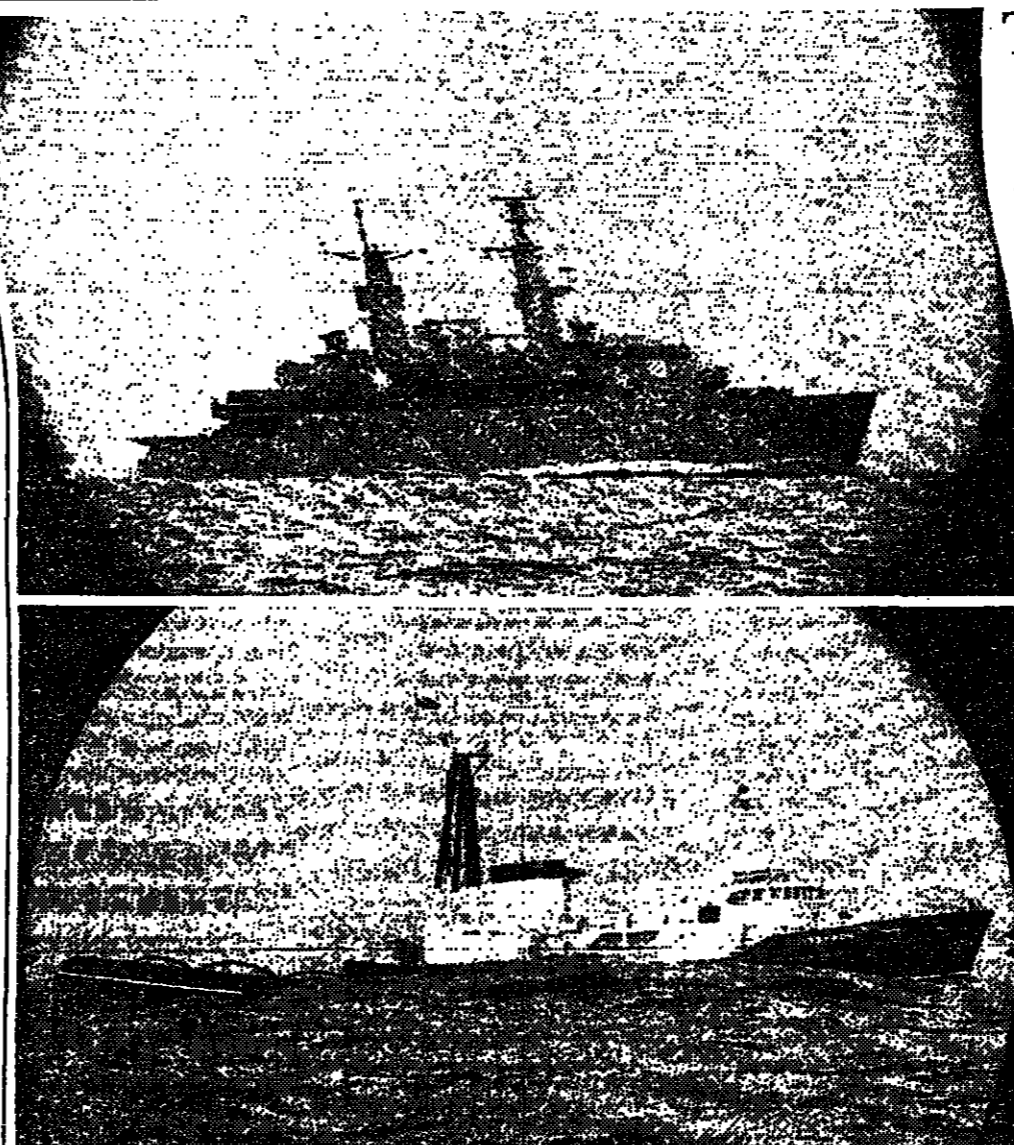
In the Commons, Mr Lawson, answering a private notice question in the Commons, told Mr Roy Hattersley, the Opposition shadow chancellor, that the move demonstrated the Government's resolve to take any steps necessary to ensure continued success against inflation. The objective was to bring down the inflation rate still further.

Mr Hattersley said the Government's policy was a shambles, and the policy of leaving interest rates to market forces had been abandoned.

Embarrassed health organizations and public bodies were yesterday reconsidering their investments in the tobacco industry, disclosed by the British Medical Association.

Two health charities, the British Heart Foundation and Mind, the National Association for Mental Health, moved quickly to sell their tobacco shares after being named in a BMA report.

But the Royal College of Surgeons of England defended its investment of 114,000 shares in companies directly and indirectly related to cigarette manufacturing.



Winning shots: HMS Brilliant photographed from HMS Ocelot. Judged the best single shot and HMS Splendid's fish's eye view of the tug Typhoon, which won second prize.

Through the periscope, a Splendid view

Continued from page 1

The Royal Navy's nuclear-powered fleet submarine HMS Splendid has won the annual periscope photography trophy competition for the Barr and Stroud Trophy, donated in 1977 by the manufacturer of all the Navy's periscopes.

Splendid, which is commanded by Commander Tony Smith, is serving with the Second Submarine Squadron, based at Devonport. The submarine came second in last year's competition.

The best single periscope photograph was a shot of the Type 22 frigate Brilliant, taken by the patrol submarine Ocelot (Lieutenant-Commander Humfrey Gordon).

Splendid won two of the five classes, for general photography and the "stereo pair" category. This technique involves taking photographs from two different view points, so that when viewed with stereoscopic glasses a three-dimensional effect is achieved.

The Faslane-based fleet submarine Valiant was second and Opportune from Gosport was third.

A total of 283 photographs was entered in the competition by 26 submarines, including the Canadian patrol submarine Onondaga, which worked with the flotilla during the year.

Photography through the periscope of a submerged submarine is carried out with a conventional 35mm camera clamped to the periscope faceplate.

1,330 pitmen go back to work, says NCB

They will meet again today to decide on action and consider whether to back Nottinghamshire further by changing their rules to make the area independent.

In taking legal action, the board has in mind the fact that the Atlix Government legislation that nationalized the mines placed a statutory obligation on the board to consult with the industry's unions; but it is not clear from the legislation whether the board has a duty to recognize only one union.

The board desperately wants to avoid a destructive inter-union war in its second-largest coalfield and may seek a High Court ruling on the issue.

Lay area leaders of the miners in Nottinghamshire reaffirmed their dissident line yesterday and suspended their secretary, Mr Henry Richardson, from all full-time office with the union.

Mr Roy Lynk, the area financial secretary who has been appointed acting general secretary in his place, said that Mr Richardson had left the coalfield executive with no alternative but to suspend him after his refusal to give an undertaking not to handle official correspondence.

Other pit news, page 2

Charities named by BMA unload tobacco shares

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Embarrassed health organizations and public bodies were yesterday reconsidering their investments in the tobacco industry, disclosed by the British Medical Association.

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But the Royal College of Surgeons of England defended its investment of 114,000 shares in companies directly and indirectly related to cigarette manufacturing.

The British Heart Foundation rushed as soon as the market opened to sell its 36,000 shares in the Grand Metropolitan hotels group, whose tobacco interests include the American cigarette company Liggett & Myers.

"We were completely unaware that Grand Met had any connection with the tobacco industry," the Foundation's director general, Brigadier said.

"We are of course deeply shocked at this revelation." The shares represented just over 1 per cent of the total investments of the foundation, which campaigns against cigarette smoking.

The mind shares in Imperial

Group, which includes the cigarette makers John Player and W.D. & H.O. Wills, were also quickly sold. The deputy director, Mr Ron Lacey, said that the 10,300 shares were sold for £18,334 yesterday. He said "I had no idea we had tobacco shares."

The Greater Glasgow Health Board, which is taking part in a campaign to make Glasgow a "smoke free" city by the year 2,000, may reconsider its £130,000 holding in Grand Metropolitan.

"We have a policy to avoid investing in tobacco companies as such," a spokesman said, "and we regard our Grand Met holding as an investment in

hotels. But now that it has been brought to our notice, the board may think again."

The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, which has £500,000 invested in Grand Metropolitan, is to decide what to do on January 29.

However, the Royal College of Surgeons of England defended its holding of 84,000 Grand Met shares and 30,000 shares in BAT, which markets 300 brands of cigarettes worldwide.

A spokesman said that it was virtually impossible not to have investments in which someone would object to.

Until last year the College's policy was that it would not

invest in tobacco, but this was changed because tobacco companies had diversified into many other areas.

The BMA said: "We will be extremely surprised if the college sticks to this decision once it thinks it through."

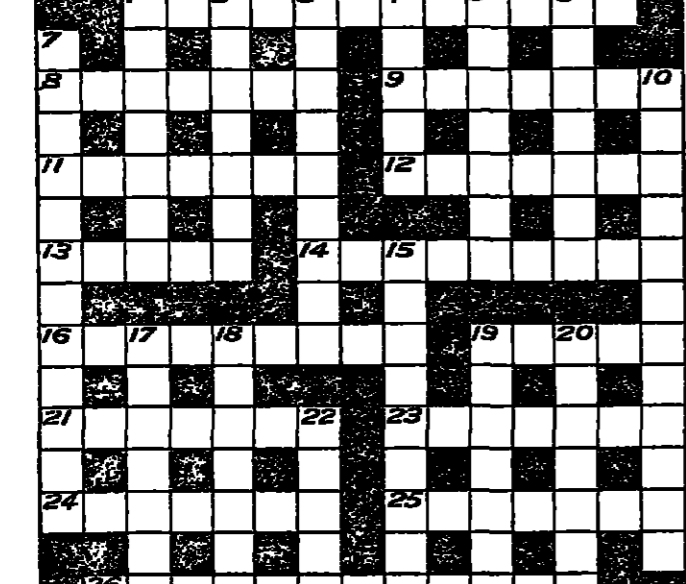
Shares in tobacco companies fell sharply yesterday in line with the collapse on the stock market, but there was no indication of a selling backlash caused by the weekend disclosures.

However, there was some concern in the City that the BMA report could encourage the Chancellor of the Exchequer to impose further heavy tax in the Budget.

Today's events

- New exhibitions**
- Work by Anthony Green, Polytechnic Gallery, Library Building, Sandyford Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mon to Thur 10 to 6, Fri and Sat 10 to 4, ends Feb 15.
 - The Bronic portraits. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, Mon to Sat 10 to 8, Sun 2 to 5, ends Feb 23.
- Exhibitions in progress**
- William Glashan's Inverness, Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness, Mon to Sat 9 to 5, closed Sun, ends Feb 7.
 - Memory of Memories, by Josef Herman, Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30, closed Mon, ends Feb 2.
 - Clay Images - ceramics exhibition: One of a Kind - exhibition of monotypes, 1984 - Scottish Painting by young Scottish artists, Crawford Centre for the Arts, 2, Arden, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, ends Feb 10.
 - Paintings by Einar Gylling, Graceland Arts Centre, 28 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, ends Jan 26.
 - Double Vision: photographs by Nicholas Suck and Mark Bursat, Costa Green, Birmingham, Mon to Fri 4 to 7, Sat 9 to 5, ends Jan 25.
 - Natural History Illustrations, by students from Bournemouth and Poole College of Art and Design, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 1, ends Jan 30.
 - Canadian Holography Now, Milton Keynes Exhibition Centre, Milton Keynes, Mon to Wed 9.30 to 6, Thur and Fri 9.30 to 8, Sat 10 to 6.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,635



- ACROSS**
- Class for which average pup or bowler may qualify (11).
 - The sight of a bathing beauty turned him into a beast (7).
 - Princess may travel by new liner (7).
 - King, rejecting Hadrian's work, claims to have the answers (4-3).
 - Double negative by this girl on the stage (7).
 - Mannerism, extremely sweet in himself, is liable to bluster (13).
 - Check speed of climb as measure of duration (4-5).
 - The last shall be first in island following leading saint in utmost confidence (13,6).
 - Throw-back to lioness born in Switzerland (5).
 - Pawnee accepts article however dirty (7).
 - Praise for a nose (7).
 - Senseless conditions set for Proud's characters (7).
 - A match for the devil (7).
 - Topping fee at the end of a contract job (9,3).
- DOWN**
- Doctor is not involved in proposals (7).
 - Write up note in journal of food allowance (7).
 - Novelist composed backchat - in old Mauretania (9).

- TV top ten**
- National top ten BBC1, ITV, BBC2, CH4, for week ending December 30, 1984.
- Porridge, 19.35m
 - The Doctor, 17.85m
 - Mary Poppins, 17.35m
 - The Kenny Everett Christmas Show, 17.05m
 - Christmas Blankety Blank, 15.35m
 - Last of the Summer Wine, 15.25m
 - Coronation Street, 15.20m
 - Escape to Victory, 15.20m
 - The Queen's Speech, 15.15m
 - North Sea Hijack, 14.75m
- ITV**
- Raiders of the Lost Ark, 19.35m
 - Argents, 19.10m
 - Coronation Street (Mon), Granada, 17.05m
 - Christmas Carol, 16.55m
 - The A-Team, 16.55m
 - Davidson's Falklands Special, 16.55m
 - The Price is Right, 14.10m
 - Coronation Street (Wed), Granada, 13.65m
 - Crossroads (Thu), Central, 13.55m
 - Mon at 5.45 (Fri), ITN, 13.55m
- BBC2**
- M.A.S.H., 9.55m
 - The Wizard of Oz, 8.60m
 - The Doctor, 8.60m
 - The Best and the Worst of Entertainment USA, 7.20m
 - The Queen Mary, 6.60m
 - The Natural World, 5.20m
 - Keep the Wild West, 5.05m
 - Six Days, 4.70m
 - Little Women, 4.35m
 - The Curse of Frankenstein, 4.25m
- Channel 4**
- Barron Knights, 5.65m
 - Brookside (Mon), 5.20m
 - The John Story, 5.15m
 - Coronation Street, 5.15m
 - Treasure Hunt Christmas Special, 3.65m
 - Coronation Street, 3.20m
 - A Piece of One's Own, 2.80m
 - The Time Machine, 2.50m
 - Starline, 2.50m
 - 101 Dalmatians, 2.50m
- Channel 5**
- Broadcast television: The average weekly figures for audiences at peak times.
- Peak Broadcast Time Mon to Fri 5pm, Sat 5pm, Sun 7pm.
1. BBC1: 2,160,000
2. Channel 4: 1,700,000
3. Channel 5: 1,600,000
4. Channel 3: 1,500,000
5. Channel 2: 1,400,000
6. Channel 4: 1,300,000
7. Channel 5: 1,200,000
8. Channel 6: 1,100,000
9. Channel 7: 1,000,000
10. Channel 8: 900,000
11. Channel 9: 800,000
12. Channel 10: 700,000
13. Channel 11: 600,000
14. Channel 12: 500,000
15. Channel 13: 400,000
16. Channel 14: 300,000
17. Channel 15: 200,000
18. Channel 16: 100,000
19. Channel 17: 50,000
20. Channel 18: 20,000

Comet calls

The Halley's Comet Hotline is available on the following numbers for information 24 hours a day for the next 17 months:

London: 01-790 3400

Glasgow: 041-532 1000

Belfast: 0232 330505

Liverpool: 051-2368474

Bristol: 0272 279494

Birmingham: 021-355 6144

Leeds: 0532 80113

Manchester: 061-246 8061

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.425	1.255
Canada \$	1.25	1.148
Denmark Kr	13.22	12.48
Finland Mk	7.78	7.39
France F	166.00	164.00
Germany DM	3.69	3.51
Greece Dr	199.00	191.00
Hong Kong \$	7.78	7.39
Ireland P	1.19	1.138
Italy Lira	2036.00	2000.00
Japan Yen	361.00	350.00
Netherlands Gld	4.19	3.99
Portugal Esc	201.00	191.00
South Africa R	203.00	193.00
Spain Ptas	166.00	160.00
Sweden Kr	1.175	1.125
Switzerland Fr	280.00	260.00
USA \$	1.425	1.255
Yugoslavia Dnr	280.00	260.00

Rates for small denominations bank rates as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. London. The FT Index closed down 19.0 at 949.3

Wildfowling ban

All wildfowling in England and Wales is to be banned from tomorrow because of the severe winter conditions. The ban will last two weeks and has been imposed by the Department of the Environment.

Portfolio

Monday-Saturday playing the Portfolio

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claim line 0254-52872 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your award is notified. The Times Portfolio claim line is open 24 hours a day for the purpose of answering queries.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio claims include market quotations on the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not refundable.

The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been amended from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure extending from Scandinavia across Scotland will persist. Low pressure over Mediterranean is expected to move north.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central, S England, E Midlands, E Angles: Show showers first, becoming more continuous and moderate in places. Wind NE strong to gale. Very cold, max minus 0°C (32°F).

E, SW England, Channel Islands: Occasional snow showers, perhaps more frequent at times. Wind NE strong to gale. Very cold, max 0°C (32°F).

S, N Wales: Isolated snow showers. Wind NE fresh to strong. Very cold, max 0°C (32°F).

Lake District, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll: Scattered snow showers. Wind NE moderate to fresh. Very cold, max 0°C (32°F).

Isle of Man, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Cloudy with isolated wintry showers. Wind variable light. Rather cold, max 4°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Snow will extend to more northern and western areas of England and Wales, remaining very cold.

SEA PASSAGES

North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E Wind): N fresh to strong, heavy at times. Visibility: good, becoming poor at times. Sea: rough or very rough.

Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel, St George's Channel: Wind: NE, fresh or strong. Wintry showers. Visibility: mainly poor. Sea: Moderate or rough.

High Sea: Wind: NE, moderate or fresh. Wintry showers. Visibility: mainly good. Sea: Slight or moderate.

The papers

The Daily Star, commenting on the future of Baby Cotton has finally been decided, and judging from the remarks of Mr Justice Lacey, she can look forward to a secure, loving and prosperous future. Having argued since her birth that the child should go to her natural father, we are delighted at the outcome.

The Daily Mirror, commenting on the falling pound, says: "The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday blamed everyone else, from the newspapers to the Labour Party, for the dismal state of the pound. But make no mistake where the real blame lies. It lies in Downing Street. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson are the culprits."

Anniversaries

Births: Molière, baptized, Paris, 1622; Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, socialist, Besancon, France, 1809; Marie Thérèse, Queen of Austria, born 1717; Laureate 1964, Atlanta, Georgia, 1920.

Deaths: Fanny Kemble, actress and writer, London, 1893; Matthew Brady, photographer who recorded the American Civil War, New York, 1906; Rosa Luxemburg, revolutionary, murdered, Berlin, 1919.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on unemployment and public investment.

Lords (2.30): Insolventy Bill, second reading. Betting, Gambling and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

Snow reports

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)
Avonmouth	L 7	fair	fine
Cardiff	L 5	fair	fine
Exeter	L 10	fair	fine
London	L 10	fair	fine
Manchester	L 10	fair	fine
Newcastle	L 10	fair	fine
Nottingham	L 10	fair	fine
Sheffield	L 10	fair	fine
Southampton	L 10	fair	fine
Stirling	L 10	fair	fine
Wolverhampton	L 10	fair	fine
Wrexham	L 10	fair	fine

In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been supplied by a tourist board:

Depth (cm)	State	Weather	Depth (cm)	State	Weather
1	L	U	1	L	U
2	L	U	2	L	U
3	L	U	3	L	U
4	L	U	4	L	U
5	L	U	5	L	U
6	L	U	6	L	U
7	L	U	7	L	U
8	L	U	8	L	U
9	L	U	9	L	U
10	L	U	10	L	U
11	L	U	11	L	U
12	L	U	12	L	U
13	L	U	13	L	U
14	L	U	14	L	U
15	L	U	15	L	U
16	L	U	16	L	U
17	L	U	17	L	U
18	L	U	18	L	U
19	L	U	19	L	U
20	L	U	20	L	U

Roads

Wales and West (Wiltshire): A419 at Swindon, Stratton St Margaret by-pass, Northbound carriageway closed. Contrail on southbound carriageway. Alternative routes signposted.

North (Cheshire): A534 Crewe Rd N of Crewe, Major resurfacing work. Yorkshire (North): A1 roadworks between Leeming Bar and Boroughbridge. S of Orchard Cafe to Pickhill Lane. End. Yorkshire (West): A1 major resurfacing work at Ferrybridge interchange. Fast lane closures delays.

Scotland: M8 (Glasgow) between junction 10 (Easterhouse) and junction 11 (Queenslie) lighting maintenance. Lane closures affecting both carriageways from 9.30 to 4.30 daily. Stirling: M9 between junction 8 (M876) and junction 9 (Stirling). Gully cleaning will close one lane northbound, Monday to Friday. M74 between junction 6 (M73) and junction 1 (Lanark). Surface repairs to southbound carriageway. Lane closures.

London

Yesterday: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 10 (64°F); min 5 pm to 8 am, -3 (27°F). Humidity: 9 pm, 83 per cent. Rain: 2.4 to 6 pm, 0.08 in. Sun: 2.45 to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Bar: mean sea level, 5 pm, 1,025.2 millibars, falling 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Abroad

City	C	F	City	C	F
Ajaccio	18	64	Colombo	28	82
Algeria	17	63	Copenhagen	28	82
Alexandria	18	64	Dublin	28	82
Amman	18	64	Edinburgh	28	82
Amsterdam	18	64	Helsinki	28	82
Antwerp	18	64	Istanbul	28	82
Athens	18	64	London	28	82
Bahia	21	70	Lyons	28	82
Bangkok	21	70	Madrid	28	82
Barcelona	18	64	Moscow	28	82
Batavia	21	70	New Delhi	28	82
Bombay	21	70	New York	28	82
Buenos Aires	21	70	Ottawa	28	82
Calcutta	21	70	Paris	28	82
Canton	21	70	Rome	28	82
Cebu	21	70	Sao Paulo	28	82
Chongqing	21	70	Seoul	28	82
Cincinnati	21	70	Singapore	28	82
Columbus	21	70	Sydney	28	82
Dacca	21	70	Taipei	28	82
Dahomey	21	70	Tokyo	28	82
Dakar	21	70	Washington	28	82
Dar es Salaam	21	70	Wellington	28	82
Delhi	21	70			